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DECEMBER 29, 2011 - JANUARY 4, 2012

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BY JODY REESE

GRANITE VIEWS

Predictions for 2012



We're expecting many good things from 2012, from the end of the Mayan calendar to the primary election to the end of John Lynch's fourth term. But some things that will happen in 2012 are a little less expected. Here's my annual list of predictions.

- Ron Paul wins the New Hampshire primary and Iowa caucuses. Potheads rejoice and the Republican party responds by completely doing away with early primaries/caucuses in both New Hampshire and Iowa.

- John Lynch announces that though he's retiring from politics, he's taking up golf and buying Concord Country Club.

- Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas does run for governor and the aldermen appoint former Louisiana Governor Buddy Roemer mayor (he's also running for president in the New Hampshire primary). Heck, Roemer lives in Manchester and has plenty of experience with local politics, hint hint.

- The Broad Street connector in Nashua is finally started — after 50 years of planning. Never has Nashua city government been accused of moving too fast.

- Adam Sandler, Sarah Silverman, Seth Meyers and Mike O'Malley (New Hampshire's best-known living comics) join together to do a movie about Craig Benson's two-year term as governor, calling it "The Sheriff is in Town." And, yes, Sandler does play Craig Benson.

- After gaining national attention for endorsing Newt Gingrich, Union Leader publisher Joe McQuaid makes news again by endorsing former New Hampshire Senator Bob Smith for governor even though he's not running and lives in Florida now.

- The New Hampshire House changes its mind on carrying concealed firearms on college campuses. After some debate it votes to allow a new group to carry guns onto campuses — high school campuses. High school students are permitted to carry concealed handguns on school grounds. What could go wrong?

- Given the expanded gun rights, you'd expect the legislature to extend freedom to other areas, but you'd be wrong. The legislature votes to ban French-Canadian dish poutine (a yummy, if not healthy, mix of french fries and cheese curds smothered in gravy) a la New York City's ban on trans fats.

- Both Maine and Massachusetts lower cigarette taxes and alcohol taxes to compete with New Hampshire's sin advantages. Our neighbors take the fight for sin one step further, though, and allow slot machines at all public facilities. For the first time, Maine surpasses New Hampshire is tourism. Hey, slots sell.

- The Occupy New Hampshire folks finally settle on some specific demands, but realize a little too late that asking for organic foods to be served at all school cafeterias, though laudable, really was shooting a bit low. Meanwhile Republicans further extend control of state government by winning the governorship and ban tent cities.

- After repeatedly losing, state Democrats fold up their tents and move to Massachusetts.

Good News from Hippo publisher Jody Reese: Hey it's a new year, folks. Enjoy it!

Year in review

From international protests to the Occupy protests that took place around the country (including in Manchester and other spots in New Hampshire) to that trick-or-treat imperiling snow storm, this was a year when people, countries and even nature seemed to freak out a bit. We examine the freak-outs on page 10 as part of our year-end look at the quality of life here in southern New Hampshire and throughout the paper, we take a look back at art, theater, food, music, movies and more in 2011.

Also on the cover: Last week it was the eats; this week it's the parties. Check out the **New Year's Eve** action on page 64.

And to those looking for a new challenge in the New Year, how about **underwater hockey**? Kelly Sennott takes a look at this new sport on page 22.

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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Manchester West High cuts energy use, wins accolades:** The Environmental Protection Agency recently congratulated Manchester High School West students for accomplishments in reducing energy use and their involvement in the ENERGY STAR Battle of the Buildings. Out of 11 New England buildings that entered the competition, Manchester West had the second-greatest reduction in energy use, and it was the top New England school in the competition, according to an EPA press release. This year, the Battle of the Buildings competition featured teams from 245 buildings across the country in a head-to-head battle to save energy, reduce costs, and protect people's health and the environment. The competition tracked monthly energy consumption using the EPA ENERGY STAR online tool from Sept. 1, 2010, to Aug. 31, 2011, the release said. All told, competitors together saved more than 240 million kBtus of energy and \$5.2 million on utility bills by improving operations and maintenance, as well as upgrading equipment and technology. Manchester West was able to cut its energy use by 16 percent, saving almost \$75,000 per year on utility bills. The greenhouse gas emissions reduced by the school was the equivalent of taking 31 cars off the road, and the electricity used by almost 14 homes per year.

• **NH gets heating assistance:** U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen announced this week that New Hampshire will get an additional \$4.8 million in funding for a heating assistance program aimed at keeping the state's most vulnerable citizens warm this winter. Shaheen spoke on the Senate floor last week urging Congress and President Barack Obama to provide money for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. "The release of today's LIHEAP funding is crucial for the many families in New Hampshire who are struggling to heat their homes," Shaheen said in a statement. Shaheen said she looked forward to more program funding being released soon. The money for New Hampshire is part of the more than \$845 million in funding the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released to states the same day. Last week, Congress passed a full-year spending bill including almost \$3.5 billion for LIHEAP. The money released this week is part of that funding, and supplements the \$1.7 billion released to states since October 2011. For Fiscal Year 2012,

states will have received a total of \$2.581 billion in LIHEAP funds, according to a Shaheen press release. The average heating-oil household is predicted to spend \$193 more this winter than last winter. The Energy Information Administration projects that the price of heating oil will be 10 percent greater this winter than last winter.

• **New jobs center in progress:** Sen. Jeanne Shaheen announced the U.S. Department of Labor has begun the process of pre-soliciting qualified small business general contractors to construct a new jobs center in Manchester. The pre-solicitation is available at fedbizopps.gov. New Hampshire is one of two states nationally without its own jobs center. The new Job Corps Center would provide academic and career training to economically disadvantaged youth ages 16 to 24. The residential education and job training facility will be focused on the industries of homeland security, healthcare and hospitality, a Shaheen press release said.

• **Median home price declines:** After four consecutive months of steady residential sales gains in New Hampshire, November unit sales saw a slight decline compared to the same month a year ago. The median price of homes declined by 4 percent in November, according to the New Hampshire Association of Realtors. In November 2011, 822 homes were sold, which is 2.5 percent behind the 843 sold in November of last year. That decline came following jumps of 29 percent, 14 percent, 13 percent, and 14 percent in the four months prior. Year-to-date sales remain 1.2 percent ahead of the first 11 months of last year, 9,790 sales to 9,674 sales. "We would expect to end 2011 a shade ahead of 2010 in terms of the number of residential homes sold," said NHAR President Tom Riley, a 35-year veteran of the real estate industry and president of Riley Enterprises in Bedford. The state's median price dropped from \$202,000 in 2010 to \$193,450 last month. The year-to-date median price of \$203,000 is 6 percent less than the \$215,000 median price at this time last year. Sales increased last month in five of the state's 10 counties, including 30-percent growth in Cheshire County, 15 percent in Carroll County and 14 percent in Belknap County. Hillsborough County increased by 0.5 percent this November compared to November 2010. There was a slight increase in condominium sales last month, compared to November 2010, 189 last month, to 187 in November 2010. Condo median prices increased from \$160,000 to

Democrat Peter Sullivan, a former alderman in **Manchester**, recently won a special primary election for the state House of Representatives. Sullivan, who ran against Mary Georges in the primary, will face Republican Muni Savyon in a special election for Hillsborough County District 10 on Feb. 21. Sullivan won the primary by a 44-39 vote count.

The state Department of Transportation will host a public informational meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 4, to discuss the planned conversion/retrofit of the **Hooksett** toll facility on Interstate 93 to highway-speed open road tolling. The meeting will take place at the Hooksett Municipal Offices, 35 Main St., at 7 p.m.

According to an article in the Telegraph, a **Nashua** woman allegedly tried to order prescription drugs fraudulently from a Merrimack doctor's office — the same doctor's office she works at. Police allege that the woman called to order a false prescription at Merrimack Village Family Practice. She is expected to be in court Jan. 24, the article said.

Rep. Frank Guinta will present the STAR (Student Achievement in Reading) Award to Shannon Moody on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 5 p.m. at the **Manchester** Public Library. Several years ago, Moody had very low adult level reading skills but wanted to read to her daughter. After working with a tutor, Moody recently read her 700th book to her daughter, according to a press release from Guinta's office. The award is given to one student per year.

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• **Horn endorses Romney:** Mitt Romney scooped up another big-name endorsement,

one of the few remaining. Jennifer Horn, who had supported former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty before he dropped his bid, announced

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she'd support Romney. The two-time congressional candidate started a nonprofit organization, We the People, this year. Horn will serve as co-chairwoman of Romney's National Grassroots Leadership Committee. Announcing her support for Romney, Horn said in a statement, "The next President of the United States will carry the heavy burden of reversing the disastrous failures of Barack Obama. Mitt Romney's combination of executive experience in both the private and public sector makes him uniquely qualified for the job." For her part, Romney said Horn, a former award-winning radio talk show host, has been a leader in the fight to promote liberty, freedom and fiscally conservative values.

• **Polling will be on a roll:** The Political Research Center at Boston's Suffolk University will release results of Suffolk University-7News tracking surveys beginning on New Year's Day and continuing every day through the New Hampshire Primary on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The two-day tracking polls, to be conducted through live phone interviews, will examine who is ahead, trends among undecided voters, and analysis of the big picture, according to a Suffolk University press release. Survey press releases will be posted daily on the University website.

• **Honor system extended at Merrimack toll:** The state Department of Transportation is extending the honor system at the Exit 12 tolls in Merrimack. The state currently utilizes "honor system" hours from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily. The state will extend those hours to weekends and holidays; the tolls will not be staffed during those times, according to a DOT press release. During these hours, cash-paying customers who do not have the exact change in toll fare may pick up a pre-printed envelope in the automatic coin machine lane to be used to mail in the toll fare, the release said. Officials expect the changes to improve the efficiency of toll collection operations during hours when traffic is minimal. Toll attendants normally working those hours will be reassigned to other shifts or nearby toll facilities.

• **Indie power companies cooperate with PSNH:** The state's Public Utilities Commission recently approved a power purchase agreement between the state's independent power producers and Public Service Company of New Hampshire. Reaching an agreement helped save jobs at the state's small, independent power producers, as well as in the logging industry, according to a press release from Gov. John Lynch's office.

A year in the wild

2011: It's still a jungle out there

By Jeff Mucciarone
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It was a big year for animals in New Hampshire. There were success stories — lynx and osprey — as well as causes for concern — bats and loons. There were newcomers to the state — wild pigs — that have wildlife officials on edge. It was also a year to make way for amphibians.

Here's a look back at The Hippo's coverage of animals in 2011.

• In December 2010, about 15,000 **rainbow trout** died at a Milford hatchery after vandals broke into a water pumping station. The news was reported in January.

• The Hippo took an in-depth look at one of New Hampshire's wintertime pastimes, **ice fishing**, in January. New Hampshire Fish and Game's Mark Beauchesne provided tips and techniques for catching a variety of fish species by using traditional tackle, as well as more modern, technologically advanced approaches. Talking about the traditional tip-up contraption for ice fishing, Beauchesne said, "Anybody can do it. And they're accessible. They're everywhere. They're fairly inexpensive. They're even less expensive in the summer time at yard sales." Beauchesne's preferred approach was to use a small rod and reel and to entice fish with a small jig head, rigged with wax worms or larvae. Beauchesne used a sonar device to help determine where fish are. "Were we in open water in a boat, we wouldn't just park in the middle and say, 'Let's go fishing,'" he said. "... we'd move around. ... Drilling holes is like casting."

• Once a year amphibians migrate from their hibernation grounds to their breeding grounds; the problem is that journey often takes them across roadways. In response, the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn enlisted volunteers to serve as **crossing guards for amphibians**. The migration usually takes place on one night in the first week of April, said Angie Krysiak, program naturalist at the Massabesic Audubon Center. "It happens



Osprey have made a comeback in New Hampshire. Photo by Robert Burton.

every year," Krysiak told the Hippo in April. She added it's usually a rainy night above 55 degrees. Thousands of amphibians would die if not for the crossing guards, she said.

• The state's **loon population** isn't necessarily decreasing but biologists and preservationists are concerned about the birds' future. Loons have been falling victim to lead poisoning, after swallowing lead sinkers and fishing tackle. The loon population has tripled in the last 35 years in New Hampshire, but officials have found fewer loon chicks in the last five years. During summer 2010, 12 loons died from swallowing lead fishing tackle, which is the most deaths recorded in one season in the state. Loons have been known to scoop up lead sinkers from the bottom of lakes and ponds, but they also will strike and swallow fish and tackle at once, according to the Loon Preservation Committee.

• After years on the drawing board, the **Manchester Dog Park** officially opened in August at Bass Island. Supporters of the park kicked off the grand opening with a doggie parade.

• The state Division of Travel and Tourism Development added a **Wildlife Viewing and Birding Trails Tour** to its website www.visitnh.gov. Division officials worked with Fish and Game to develop a statewide self-guided tour to showcase the most unique and scenic wildlife viewing locations, according to the

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state. The itinerary includes 25 wildlife viewing and birding trail locations.

• While the future of loons might be uncertain in New Hampshire, the future of **New Hampshire's bats** is disturbingly bleak. White nose syndrome, a fungus that kills bats while they hibernate, has wreaked havoc on the state's bat populations. In 2009, four of the largest hibernation locations in the state contained more than 3,000 bats. Last winter, biologists were only able to find 16 total bats in the same locations. "It was very strange and very sad," said Emily Brunkhurts, a biologist with the state Department of Fish and Game. Officials are concerned that within 15 years, the most common bats, notably the little brown bat, could be extinct in the northeast. "We have never seen a wildlife crisis like this, a disease that has spread so rapidly to so many species and so lethal," Brunkhurst said. "It's not just, 'Oh it's just bats,' because they're so critical to the environment. It speaks to the value of bats..." The little brown bat, which accounts for 85 percent of all bats that hibernate in the northeast, has declined by an average of 93 percent. Bats are vulnerable to disease during hibernation because they congregate in caves in clusters of 300 animals per square foot in some locations, according to the New York State Department of Conservation.

• As part of a project by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, a fledgling **osprey named Saco**, equipped with a lightweight satellite transmitter, flew to South America. The project was designed to help biologists track the bird for as long as three years as it migrates south. Saco, along with a younger male chick which didn't survive, was tagged at its nest at the Ayers Island Hydro Station in New Hampton in July. Osprey have bounced back in the last three decades. Their populations were decimated by the pesticide DDT.

• With the help once again of Fish and Game's Mark Beauchesne, The Hippo delved into the subject of **upland bird hunting** in October. Hunters use dogs to point out the location of birds or to flush birds, usually ruffed grouse and woodcock in New Hampshire. "It's kind of like the fly fishing of hunting," Beauchesne said. For hunters, the sport is about autumn in all its essence

— crisp air and vivid colors. And it's about the relationship between hunter and dog. The dogs are "amazing to watch," Beauchesne said. "Just athletes in the woods."

• Wildlife officials estimate there are between 100 and 200 **feral swine** living in New Hampshire. They aren't native and they can be destructive and carry disease. The hogs, which typically weigh between 75 and 250 pounds and are considered the most significant exotic mammalian pest species in the country, presumably escaped from a game preserve in New Hampshire years ago and wildlife officials are on alert because the hogs can reproduce quickly. "They have the capacity to expand very quickly," said Mark Ellingwood, a biologist with the state Fish and Game Department, earlier this month. "In addition, our landscape is not adapted to their presence." Pigs can affect sensitive plant communities and have the potential to wipe out food sources of other native animals. "They have the capacity to more or less go through areas and forage so efficiently and with such a dramatic impact that they could have a very negative impact on our species," Ellingwood said.

• On the other hand, the **Canada lynx** has been spotted in New Hampshire and that's great news. The animal had been wiped out, but biologists have recently documented its existence in the state's northern regions. Officials have documented several sightings, including ones with young animals, suggesting the cats are reproducing. "The stage has been set for the return of some of our missing wildlife," said John Kanter, of the state Fish and Game Department. "These animals, anybody who sees a picture, they're just gorgeous-looking animals. They're a predator with a lot of stealth to them. This is really some great news." Lynx are likely expanding their population from Maine, where lynx have sustained a relatively robust population of perhaps more than 1,000 animals, Kanter said earlier this month. The last documented lynx in New Hampshire was a road-killed animal in 1993.

HIPPO POLITICS

Year of the elephant

Republicans dominated 2011 both locally and nationally

By Jeff Mucciarone
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It was the year of the Republicans and as usual the Granite State provided excellent political theater across the board.

Much of the past year was understandably absorbed by the New Hampshire primary, but plenty was happening on the state level, particularly with the legislature's massive GOP majorities. Republicans began the year with nearly a two-to-one advantage in the state House of Representatives, a 19-to-5 advantage in the state Senate, and a five-to-nobody advantage on the Executive Council.

And Republicans weren't afraid to use those majorities. Here's a look at the year that was in state politics, as well as in primary politics.

With little resistance due mostly to a lack of numbers, Republicans were able to pass just about anything they wanted, including a dramatically pared back state budget that took



effect in July. Many were and remained concerned about the budget's impact. While Republicans were able to pass legislation to reform the retirement system, reduce regulations on businesses and cut 10 cents off the state's cigarette tax, the GOP wasn't able to pass controversial right-to-work legislation. Just this month, right-to-work supporters failed to override a veto by Gov. John Lynch.

On the legislation front

Right-to-work, which would have made it easier for state employees not to join unions, sticks out because it was just about the only piece of legislation GOP leaders wanted but couldn't get. The Senate, in the end, opted to re-work New Hampshire's involvement in the

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Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap-and-trade program, rather than opt out entirely. The House had voted decidedly for opting out.

The state budget cut funding just about everywhere, including reimbursement funds for hospitals, which had previously used the funds to cover uncompensated care. Hospitals responded and sued the state. The case awaits a court ruling.

One of the only places where there appeared to be common ground between Republican leaders and Democratic Gov. John Lynch was education funding. The state's role in education funding has long been controversial and essentially unresolved in New Hampshire. It appeared all sides wanted to get something done. It still seems that way, but not everybody was on the same page. The House killed proposals by Lynch and the Senate last month. A House proposal awaits a hearing in the Senate come January.

A bill that would have required voters to present identification before voting created quite a stir and ultimately fizzled out. Supporters saw presenting identification as a way to avoid voter fraud and as fairly basic, since people must present identification for myriad other things. Opponents saw the bill as potentially hurting the thousands of state residents without IDs.

While many on the left had feared Republicans would try to repeal the state's gay marriage law, Republicans pushed off the issue, though it is expected to get plenty of attention in 2012.

The still-coming-together gubernatorial race

Lynch, who is in the middle of a record fourth term as governor, announced in September he would not seek a fifth term in the corner office. He would have been particularly difficult to beat, since he was more or less the lone Democrat standing following the 2010 election. If he could win in 2010, it would be difficult to picture Lynch losing, period.

With Lynch out of the picture, on the Republican side, Ovide Lamontagne, who narrowly lost a bid for the GOP nomination for Senate in 2010, entered the fray, as did Cornerstone Research's Kevin Smith. Smith has since resigned from his post with Cornerstone. There is speculation Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas could run for governor as well.

As far as Democrats go, former state senator Maggie Hassan is running, and another former state senator, Jackie Cilley, may be joining her in a primary. WMUR reported that Steve Marchand, former Portsmouth mayor, won't be running. Apparently neither will Stonyfield Yogurt CEO Gary Hirshberg.

The state lost a former governor this past year, as Walter Petersen, a Republican governor who served from 1969 to 1973, died this past spring after a bout with lung cancer (though he never smoked). Petersen was known for his ability to work across party and ideological lines and the label "Walter Petersen Republicans" had come to signify a more moderate brand of Republicanism than the social conservatives and Tea Party supporters who came later. Petersen was 88.

The primary

On the presidential front, Mitt Romney has remained fairly constant in New Hampshire but that's about it. Romney consistently has grabbed 35 to 40 percent support in polls. Other candidates have risen and fallen quite a bit along the way.

For a brief period of time, Texas Gov. Rick Perry took the field by storm, quickly becoming a national frontrunner. Romney remained consistent and on message, and Perry bumbled

his way along during debates. Soon Romney was back on top again.

Then it was Herman Cain, the former CEO of Godfather's Pizza. Cain, with his humor, political outsider standing and straightforward take on the issues, rose quickly in the polls this fall before a barrage of sexual harassment allegations came forth. Once again, Romney remained consistent and on message, and soon was the frontrunner again. Cain has dropped out of the race.

And perhaps finally, it was the former House speaker Newt Gingrich who sprinted up the polls. Gingrich may have peaked a week or two ago but appears to present a serious challenge to Romney, who went on the attack to a certain extent. The Iowa Caucuses, which take place Jan. 3, will go a long way in determining just how much support and momentum Gingrich has. Ron Paul is very much in the running to take Iowa.

Along the way, Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann jumped up in the polls right before Perry entered the race. Jon Huntsman, the former Utah governor and Ambassador to China, was supposed to be a major obstacle for Romney, but thus far, that hasn't materialized. Former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty was another seemingly strong candidate who many thought could challenge Romney — but it didn't work out. Pawlenty has since dropped out and endorsed Romney.

Rick Santorum, a former Pennsylvania senator, has worked hard all over New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina, but he hasn't seen that translate into success in polls. Former Louisiana governor Buddy Roemer and longtime Republican operative and gay rights activist Fred Karger have also worked hard in New Hampshire to get their messages out. Congressman Thad McCotter ran briefly before bowing out. Gary Johnson has campaigned hard for the last year and a half, but without much success in the polls, he recently announced he'd instead seek the Libertarian nomination for president.

There was also Donald Trump. The Donald flirted with a presidential run and as yet hasn't ruled out an independent bid.

Sarah Palin, always keeping her intentions close to the vest, mysteriously popped up on the seacoast on a bus tour the same day Romney formally announced his presidential bid. She ultimately decided against running, as did former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani.

The date of the primary saw its own political roller coaster. For a time, it looked possible that Secretary of State Bill Gardner would schedule the primary for either the first or second week of December. That was thanks to Nevada trying to move up on New Hampshire's territory — but most of the blame lies with Florida, which disregarded the previous schedule and moved its own primary to Jan. 28. That caused everybody to scramble. Ultimately, Nevada relented and New Hampshire got its primary locked in on Jan. 10.

It hasn't been the same old traditional retail politicking here in New Hampshire that people are used to. New Hampshire is all about getting out there, shaking hands, answering questions and maybe even squirming a little, but several candidates — Gingrich, Cain and even Romney to an extent — have focused on a broader, more national approach, with heavy emphasis on social media, cable television and a regular debate schedule to gain momentum. Huntsman is the only major candidate to essentially stake his campaign on New Hampshire, but so far it's been to no avail.

And now the primary vote looms in the distance, less than two weeks away.

Adam Coughlin contributed to this report.

Moving on up

Real estate leader sees good signs

There have been ups and downs, but overall most of the signs are good, says Tom Riley, president of the New Hampshire Association of Realtors. The real estate industry has taken plenty of hits in the last few years but the numbers suggest it's rebounding, particularly in the last few months. Riley gave his take on the past year in real estate, as well as a look ahead.

Q: *How are things going?*
...Things have stabilized and in the last two to three months things have gone up slightly. It's going in the right direction. There is a lot of traffic looking at homes. New home building construction is increasing.... Interest rates, the inventory available, things are going the other way. I'm encouraged.... Commercial real estate has been a real bright star. Vacancy rates are decreasing. Retail is starting to pick up. ... People are looking for housing. They're looking for rentals first, then condos and then they're slowly progressing to homes. All in all, I'm very encouraged by the last quarter. We hope that trend continues. We still have Europe to worry about, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and Washington ... which could be finding ways to cure the budget on the backs of homeowners. There are plenty of things to keep an eye on in this state, and to make sure they're not passed down.... All in all, I'm very optimistic. ... 1.2 percent might not sound like a lot ... a couple hundred homes, but every year it gets a little better.

Are we past the point of the home buyer tax credit impacting numbers? [The \$8,500 home buyer tax credit expired last year, but impacted sales numbers into this year.]

I think so. That skewed things for seven or eight months this past year. ... That's why I'm so encouraged, even without the tax credit, the numbers are increasing. ... The realtor organization is a strong organization. ... New Hampshire is very lucky. We have low unemployment.

Prospective home buyers, what issues are they facing?

Just last month, we started seeing people putting condos on the market to go up [to a house]. ... Now people who have small houses are looking to go up to the next-level home. The problem, of course, is that if they bought their home four, five, six years ago, the value has either decreased a little or not moved at all. But they'll have a little equity to sell the home or reduce the price. The criteria [for financing are] still tough. ... You need a good job, stability and some savings. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. ... Yes, you're selling at a lower price, but you're buying the new one at a substantially lower price. ... It's an even swap or you're saving on the other end.

What are you hearing from other realtors?

In talking with a couple of realtors, the foot traffic is increasing. They're getting contracts under agreement. I talked to two brokers and they said they just had the best two weeks they've had in over a year. That's why it's so encouraging. People are starting to look again. ... If you have any inclination of buying in the next six months or a year, you should probably look.

And you're seeing positive signs with regard to construction of new homes?



northern part, it's still a little slow.

Are you noticing any other trends?

Nice Class A buildings are getting a little tighter to find.... Industrial space is a little tighter to find. Multi-family prices are up.... Just the numbers of approvals are up.... We're seeing competitive bids, not only on the residential side, but on the commercial side. Little things that we like to see. Hopefully we've learned our lesson. A house is a long-term investment, rather than a short-term asset. Building a home is more than an investment. It was just buy and resell for a time, but we're hoping now that it's back to being a place to live, to raise a family, to be involved with the community.

Any advice for prospective buyers?

Shop around. You have a good supply of inventory. Get pre-approved and lock it in. Rates are the lowest I've ever seen them. Get a good realtor, one who really knows the industry. Shop around. It's just like buying a car. Don't buy the first one. Shop around for the best rates. Lock it in and commit, you'll be making one of the best investments for your future. ...

Are there particular areas or communities that are doing well?

The seacoast is strong right now. Inventory is getting a little tight over there. The Bedford area is always good. There's pockets in southern New Hampshire, the Salem area, where the market is picking up a little stronger. That's typical. Basically, if you think of it, two-thirds of the state's population is Concord-south, so you're going to see the biggest increases there.

What about trends in the commercial sector?

We're expecting a strong multi-family market next year, a strong industrial market. Retail is starting to come back and office space is picking up as well. ... All four aspects are on the rise. It's at least all going in the right direction. ... Restaurants are coming on the market, national chains, especially in southern New Hampshire, and that's the first time in three or four years.

So you're expecting a nice 2012?

As long as it's stabilized. I think the industry ... it's the right way to go. We're not going the wrong way. If it stays stabilized, I think 1- or 2-percent [increase] in 2012, I think we'd be happy. We're not looking for 7, 8 or 10 percent. We're just hoping it continues to stabilize.

—Jeff Mucciarone

We are. I recently spoke with two builders looking for house lots ... people who want a brand new house. Builders are up and ready to go. It's really encouraging. This is southern New Hampshire. The

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QoL

QUALITY OF LIFE
 INDEX

DECEMBER 29, 2011

New Hampshire freaks out about money

With large majorities in the legislature, Republicans were able to easily pass a state budget that pulled back spending. Easily passed — but not without controversy. Everything was on the chopping block, including funding for Health and Human Services, the prison system, the retirement system, hospitals and state aid for nonprofit organizations. With lawmakers staring at a \$900 million deficit to begin the budget year, dramatic cutbacks were probably needed. But the crowds came out to protest the cuts in front of the Statehouse. Many were worried about the long-term implications of the budget, particularly in light of increased needs in some social services. Gov. John Lynch ultimately let the budget become law without his signature.

QOL score: ?

Comment: “Would have been very nice to be in a session where in the background the economy is booming and state revenues were growing. But that’s not what we face,” said House Speaker William O’Brien in an interview with the Hippo in July.

Retail politics capital of the political word?

New Hampshire also got to participate in the national political freak-out. Traditionally, the Granite State is all about good, old-fashioned retail politics, candidates really getting out there to meet voters and shake hands. Except that hasn’t really happened this past year. Candidates like Newt Gingrich and Herman Cain ran national campaigns that were heavily reliant on social media, debates and cable television. Novelty candidate Donald Trump treated his few forays into New Hampshire more like a TV show promo than a campaign stop (and in retrospect, that’s probably what they were). Even Mitt Romney, the presumptive frontrunner, wasn’t a regular in New Hampshire downtowns for most of the primary season (though we got him more than Iowa did). And other early primary states — Florida in particular — tried to infringe on New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation status. Will NH see a return to old-school Rotary breakfasts and town hall meetings in 2016? Or does this primary point to a shift in how presidential campaigns will be waged?

QOL score: ?

Comment: A surprise come-from-way-behind Jan. 10 victory for a candidate like Jon Huntsmen could change the story of this campaign.

QOL's dreaming of a white ... Halloween?

It was a year of freaky weather as well. There was that hurricane that caused more damage to the western part of the state than the coast, for example. On the positive side, it’s been a mild winter weather season so far — if you don’t count that snow storm right before Halloween that stripped limbs from trees and left thousands without power. What else does this winter have in store for New Hampshire?

QOL score: ?

Comment: For the record, Mother Nature, QOL is just fine with a winter of 40- and 50-degree days with occasional light flurries.

New Hampshire dominates the sports world

For the second year in a row, a New Hampshire native played a pivotal role in his team’s winning the World Series. Trinity High School graduate Chris Carpenter won the decisive Game 7, which earned his team, the St. Louis Cardinals, the most coveted award in baseball. Last year, Brian Wilson of Londonderry won the World Series with the San Francisco Giants. Also in baseball, Ben Cherington of Meriden was named the new General Manager of the Red Sox and the Fisher Cats won the 2011 Eastern League Championship. In football, Manchester’s Chip Kelly led his Oregon Ducks to the 2011 BCS National Championship game but ultimately lost to Auburn University. Three schools from the Granite State — Brewster, New Hampton and Tilton — were ranked in the top 10 nationally in high school basketball. Will 2012 bring further athletic glory?

QOL score: ?

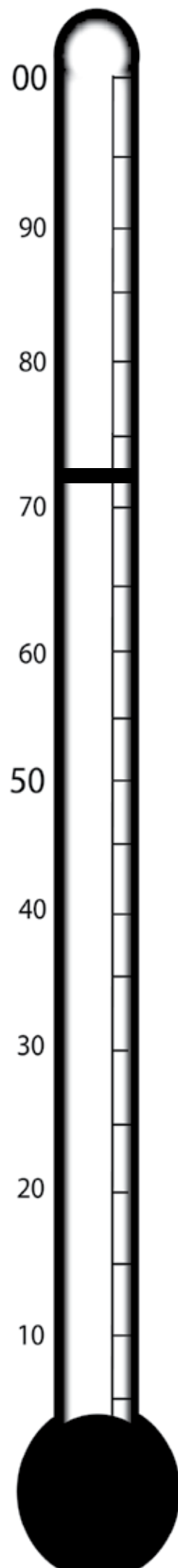
Comments: New Hampshire likes winners. That is why it supported John McCain and Hillary Clinton in the 2008 primary. Oh wait...

QOL score at the end of 2010: 80

QOL score at the end of 2011: 72

Change in 2011’s QOL over 2010: -8

The final QOL score is a gain of 22 points over 50, which is where the QOL score began the year and where it will begin again next week with the first issue of 2012. What’s affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.



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Weird, wild and unbelievable year comes to an end



With the year ending, here are the stories that made the biggest impact on me in 2011 from the 10th to the number one story of the year.

10: Rory McIlroy Wins the U.S. Open: I

love athletes who come back strong after getting knocked to the ground. That's what the 21-year-old Irishman did after his Masters meltdown when he blew a four-shot lead by shooting an 80 on the final day. He got back on the horse to lead wire to wire at the U.S. Open and put the Masters nightmare to rest for good. Bonus points to **Charl Schwartzel** for roaring down the final four holes to EARN his Masters title.

9. Heat Get Beat: Who outside the confines of the 305 area code didn't want this to happen? It started with LeBron's Entourage forcing grown men to come to Ohio to beg him to play for their team. Then in showing a greater loss of perspective than any but Charlie Sheen's during the self-immolation, he announced it to media lackey **Jim Gray** on national TV, without the decency to inform his former team that he was taking his talents someplace else, which was heard by an astonishing number of mouth breathers watching on ESPN. Next came the vomit-inducing spectacle in Miami to show off the new imports, which rubbed it in even deeper to spurned fans (and owners) in Toronto and especially Cleveland. They started badly — we loved it. Caught fire after 15 games — we hated it. Almost self-destructed in a horrendous mid-winter stretch when guys were crying in the locker room — we really loved that. They pulled it together in the playoffs to beat the aging Celtics and the young Bulls — we hated that — before the Mavs embarrassed them as LeBron's collar got tighter than Spandex on Kirstie Alley — which we loved best of all. And while no one would blame anyone for wanting to live in Miami in winter instead of Cleveland, they brought it on all themselves — which we loved most of all.

8. Tebow Mania: I went on about this ad nauseam last week — but it did light a fuse nationally and I'm guessing it'll be the same next year.

7. Young Local Stars Emerge: By hitting .321 with 32 homers and 105 RBI **Jacoby Ellsbury** answered all those who said he was faking injuries the previous year by having arguably had the greatest offensive season by a lead-off hitter ever. Meanwhile **Rob Gronkowski** took the NFL by storm as the one-man wrecking crew nearly beat the Redskins and Chiefs by himself on his way to scoring an NFL record for tight ends with 15 touchdowns.

6. Red Sox Collapse: One for the books, even for the Red Sox, as they blew the biggest September lead for a postseason berth in history. The local media made it seem like it was 20 times worse than any team ever, when the Braves were doing the same thing at the exact same time, only a half game less bad. But it cost Tito his job and probably Theo's as well and much of the respect the nation had for **Josh Beckett**, who took the brunt of the drinking-in-the-clubhouse story. And while almost everyone besides **Jacoby Ellsbury** and **Marco Scutaro** had a hand in it, somehow **Jonathan Papelbon** came out clean even though he blew three games in the final week. All in all, a 10 on the Yikes meter.

5. Down Goes Frazier: Ali's great rival **Smokin' Joe Frazier** sadly was joined in the great beyond by many of my favorites, like the most feared slugger of the '60s, **Harmon Killebrew**, reviled and respected Raider owner **Al Davis**, mammoth **Bubba Smith**, who Michigan State fans used to chant for their defensive end to "Kill, Bubba, Kill," **Dick Williams**, who brought the Sox along to the Impossible Dream of 1967, local legend **Mike Flanagan** and my great friend **Killer Bates**, who I still can't believe is gone. To all: thanks for the memories and rest in peace.

4. Oregon Plays for the National Title: I still think they lost on a bogus play as **Michael Dyer** was laying on a guy who was laying on the ground, which says down to me, before popping up to put Auburn in position for the winning score as time ran out to give Auburn a 22-19 win. Still it was a high-flying exciting season enhanced dramatically by my homer status in rooting for local lad **Chip Kelly**'s club.

3. The Bruins Win the Cup: Their run brought me back to hockey for the first time since the Rangers won the Cup in '94. It remind-

ed me of just what a great game hockey is at its peak. Favorite moment: **Tim Thomas** dumping one of the Sedins when he wandered into his crease — don't ask me which one, all Sedins look alike to me. Favorite player: **Brad Marchand**, a gritty fighter of the kind that all Boston sports teams need more of, especially the Red Sox.

2. Carpenter's Post-Season Run: It culminated with a great World Series that had three one-run games, a Ruthian effort from **Albert Pujols**, Game 6 entering the conversation for greatest Series game ever and a home-grown hero in **David Freese** as MVP. But if not for **Chris Carpenter** they don't even get in the playoffs. He was the winning pitcher in Game 7 on three days rest, beat **Roy Halladay** in one of the greatest pitching duels in history to win the ALDS, was 4-0 in the playoffs and two-hit Houston on the final day to let the Cardinals slide by the choking Braves into the playoffs by the hair of their chinny chin chin. It's arguably the greatest 30-day period any athlete from this state has ever had.

1. Moral Mess at State U's: Lumping them all together seems unfair, because covering up trading autographs for tattoos and allegedly covering up the acts of a child predator are hardly on the same scale. But with serious violations, possible violations, repeated unlawful off-field conduct and shameful graduation rates at Ohio State, USC, North Carolina, Miami, LSU, Oregon and especially Penn State, when are the college presidents going to step in and say enough is enough? Sadly, they never will, because they are the biggest part of the problem in their groveling for the money it brings in and protecting the image of their institutions at all costs regardless of what's happened.

Didn't mean to end on a bad note — but, as Coach B likes to say, it is what it is. Happy Holidays to all and peace be with you.

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippo-press.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM — The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

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Central Takes First Ever Girls QCIBT in 2001

It was December, 2001 and the 9-11 attacks had happened a few months earlier, newcomers, the Manchester Monarchs, had just taken over first place and the Patriots were a few weeks away from stunning the vaunted St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl. In town it was the first ever girl's version of the Queen City Invitational Basketball Tournament with six teams eager to put their stamp on local history. Central and Trinity got off with wins over Oyster River and Souhegan. Memorial however, despite the presence of soon to be BC Eagle **Kindyll Dorsey** in the line-up, stumbled in a loss to Bishop Brady. In round two Memorial came back to beat Trinity 49-41 as Dorsey led the Crusaders with 13, while **Lindsey Anderson** and **Jen Caron** had 14 and 17 for the Pioneers. Central won again — this time in a 59-50 decision over Brady, as **Jen Roy** led the Green with 20 points. Still Bishop Brady advanced to the final, thanks to a tie breaking system that advanced the team with the most points scored among the 1-1 teams, for a rematch with Central. The Green jumped out to a 17-8 first quarter lead. Brady countered by winning the second period 15-10 to draw within 4 at the half. Central had a 13-12 edge in the 3rd quarter, which Brady reversed to their advantage in the final quarter — but could not get any closer as Central walked off the with a 52-48 win and the first QCIBT title. **Kassie Hamel** and **Lindsey Jodion** were high for the Green with 13 a piece while **Randi Hardiman** had a game high 15 for Brady in what was yet another great event for Manchester.

073903

PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

No holiday for local sports

Sports Glossary

Charlie Sheen: Former TV star who doesn't just burn bridges, he napalms them. Latest dust-up came after he got fired from his \$1.8 million per episode starring gig in the vapid sitcom *Two and a Half Men* in a battle with the producers. Went nuclear after that, leading to a national media spectacle only TMZ could love. Came to national attention with roles in the heavyweight films *Wall Street* and *Platoon*, along with the sports movies *Eight Men Out* and *Major League*, where he was chosen partly for his baseball ability after starring as a pitcher/shortstop at Santa Monica High.

Jim Gray: Smarmy media weasel working on the edges while alternately badgering the likes of Pete Rose on national TV during a Team of the Century ceremony to make a name for himself, or sucking up to the likes of Kobe Bryant and LeBron, which led to his hosting *The Decision*. Former sideline reporter for NFL games on CBS, where the topper was wearing the Little Red Riding Hood bonnet with the ear flaps to stay warm in bad weather. Coincidentally or not, we haven't seen him on CBS since.

Bubba Smith: Mammoth defensive end on the great Michigan State teams in the mid-'60s who the crowds would exhort to "Kill, Bubba, Kill!" Went to the NFL's Colts after his All-American college career, and later to the Raiders, where he made all pro but did not quite live up to expectations after blowing out his knee. Acting was next, where he's best known as the mammoth officer Hightower in the comic *Police Academy* series.

Sherman and Mr. Peabody: Punspeaking genius dog and his boy Sherman in arguably the greatest cartoon in history. Appeared in the '50s and '60s, as the in-between toon to *Rocky and Bullwinkle*, along with *Fractured Fairly Tales*. Each adventure started with the pair entering Mr. Peabody's Wayback Machine to be transported back in time to watch the events of some famous moment in history unfold. Among the events taken in were Custer's last stand and Paul Revere's famous ride, all of which ended with bad puns too long to mention here.

What A Stupid I Yam Award: To me, for inadvertently saying Connor Minch's sensational 51-save effort came for Memorial in a 1-0 win over Central, when in reality every scout and myself know it's the other way around, as he's from Central and the Little Green were the winners in that one. Apologies to all and I'll let the NHIAA know they need to make the change in the standings.

Sports 101: Among the Top 32 rated quarterbacks in the NFL season, one school has produced three QBs and two others have produced two. Who are the schools and the players?

Do the Math: Loved these stats from Globe beat writer Nick Cafardo after the acquisition of possible closer Mark Melancon: off the pitches he threw in 2011, the bad guys hit .317 off 461 fastballs, .138 off 299 curveballs and .200 over 260 cutters. Overall it was a .234 batting average against. Against Jonathan Papelbon the last three years it was .207, .226 and .213.

Last-Minute Christmas Gift Idea: Red Sox fans may get a kick out of the annual 73rd Boston Baseball Writers Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Westin Copley Place in Boston. Among those being honored are Jacoby Ellsbury, Dustin Pedroia, Tony LaRussa and many others. Tickets are \$175 and benefit the Sports Museum of New England. For more information, visit www.sportsmuseum.org/dinner or call 617-624-1237.

Basketball All Name Team: Andrew (Fort) Lauderdale, Miles Davis and (Zsa, Zsa) Mabor Gabriel, Trinity; Jake (dis) Mount, Goffstown; (great) Britton Doyle, Alvirne; (honest) Gabe LaCount, or Gabe LaCount (to 3 - 1, 2, 3!),

Central; Sam (the bloom is off the) LaRosa, Salem; CJ (boy, oh) Boykin, BG; Jared (Sherman and Mr.) Peabody, Merrimack.

On This Date - Dec. 29: 1933 - The cold-hearted Yankees refuse to release Babe Ruth so he can accept an offer to manage the Cincinnati Reds. **1936** - Heart and soul of the Green Bay Packers defense in 1960s dynasty years Ray Nitschke is born. **1938** - Jon Voight, who has played legendary sports figures Howard Cosell and Adolph Rupp, is born. **1958** - In the first sudden death overtime game the Colts beat the Giants 23-17 to win the NFL title in the so-called greatest game ever played. **1965** - CBS purchases NFL TV rights for \$18.8 million per year - which just sold for \$1 billion per network, per year last week. **1968** - Colts beat the Browns 34-0 to win the NFL title to set up their ill-fated match-up with the New York Jets in Super Bowl III. **1969** - Word leaks that Curt Flood will sue to challenge baseball's reserve clause putting baseball on the course to the free agency era. **1973** - Ex-Sox GM Theo Epstein is born.

1982 - Paul "Bear" Bryant ends his legendary career with Alabama with a most-ever 323 wins and sadly he would die 26 days later of a heart attack.

Sports 101 Answer: In Carson Palmer, Mark Sanchez and Matt Cassell USC has three QBs in the Top 32, while BC (Tim Hasselback and Matt Ryan) and Purdue (Drew Brees and surprise Curtis Painter) have produced two. If you want to extend it to head coaches then Michigan has Tom Brady and Niners coach Jim Harbaugh.

The Numbers

2 - number of Tylers in the starting line-up for the Alvirne boys when they upset Central 61-58 when the Tylers Livingston and Brown combined for 19 points in the big **5** - baskets from international waters by Anthony Muccioli to account for 15 of his game-high 27 points in leading Nashua South to a 53-35 pasting of Salem. **15** - points and rebounds for Tyler Gendron and points for Dimitri Floras as they were high scorers for Merrimack as they picked

their second win of the 2011-12 by downing West 63-49 where Aaron Martin was game high with 18. **20** - game- and career-high points scored by Ashley Giampetrucci for Central when the Green got their first win of the year in a 52-36 triumph over Alvirne. **33** - margin of victory for the highly touted Trinity Pioneers when they handed Nashua North their first loss of the year behind a balanced scoring attack led by Mabor Gabriel, Andrew Lauderdale and Carmen

Giampetrucci, who had 17, 16 and 14 respectively. **51.7** - million dollars bid by the Texas Rangers for the right to negotiate with Japanese righty Yu Darvish, which exceeds the \$51.1 million the Red Sox posted to try and sign Dice-K five winters ago.

1,500 - plus runners participated in the inaugural running of the Santa Shuffle to be the largest first year for any continuing race as \$2,500 was raised to benefit the NH Musculoskeletal Institute and Safe Sports Network.

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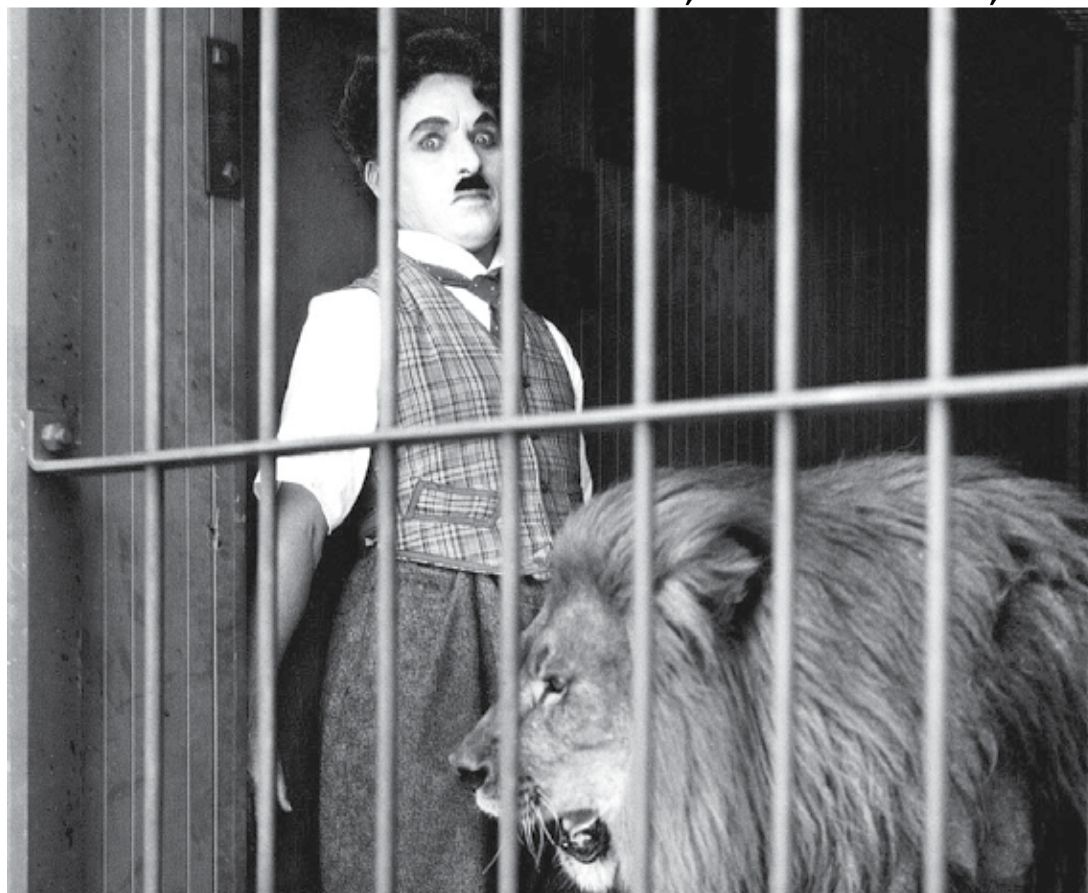
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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DEC. 29, 2011 - JAN 4, 2012, AND BEYOND



Sunday, Jan. 1

Spend New Year's day with Charlie Chaplin, Laurel & Hardy and Buster Keaton at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre in downtown Wilton at 4:30 p.m. The screening will include shorts by Laurel & Hardy and Keaton and the feature-length *The Circus* (1928), featuring Charlie Chaplin. Live music will accompany the shorts. Admission is free with donations accepted. See www.wiltontown-halltheatre.com.



Friday, Dec. 30

Today is the final day of Physzig South performances, which began Monday, Dec. 26, and run through today at West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St. in Portsmouth. The shows mix physical comedy, music, magic and more. Tickets cost \$15. Call 436-6660 or go to pontine.org. (See a story from last week's Hippo about the performance at www.e-pages.dk/thehippo/165/20.)



Saturday, Dec. 31

Celebrate New Year's Eve! If your idea of fun runs more to the idea of a feast, check out last week's story (found here: www.e-pages.dk/thehippo/165/50) about restaurants offering special meals for this big night (and call for reservations). If you'd rather hit the town for some music and excitement, check out this week's story in the Hippo Nite section (page 74)



Saturday, Dec. 31

The kids can also ring in the new year — and they can do it at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. today at the Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org. The museum is open today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will hold three countdown to "midnight" with party hats and a ginger ale toast.



Saturday, Dec. 31

Or spend the night watching some hockey. The Manchester Monarchs will take on the Providence Bruins tonight at 7 p.m. The evening will include indoor fireworks. The Monarchs play at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St. in Manchester, 644-5000. See www.monarchshockey.com for tickets.

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Free: Advice for the new year

Get going on those New Year's resolutions with Mary Kathryn Macklin, author of *Women Fit at Fifty: A Guide for Living Long*, who will discuss her book at Gibson's Bookstore (27 S. Main St. in Concord, 224-0562, www.gibsons-bookstore.com) on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. and again at the Tucker Free Library (31 Western Ave. in Henniker, 428-3471) on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

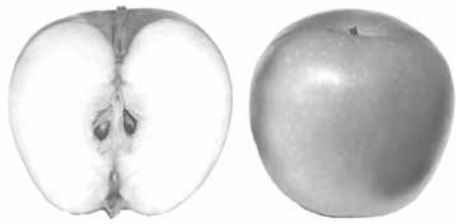
Cheap: Music and art

The Currier Museum of Art's exhibit "Backstage Pass: Rock & Roll Photography" is fast nearing the end of its run (it's on display through Jan. 15). See it for the first time or see it again on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 6 p.m. when the local band Matt Chase Group will perform in the Winter Garden Café (where you can order up some eats from Z Food & Drink). The event costs \$10. The Currier is at 150 Ash St. in Manchester, 669-6144, www.currier.org.

Splurge: Chocolate and wine

Give yourself something to look forward to, post-holiday season. Sign up for Zorvino Vineyards' Chocolate Madness on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Taste six wines and three appetizers made with chocolate. Tickets cost \$35. Zorvino is located at 226 Main St. in Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com. Reservations are required.

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New galleries and classic rockers

Despite defunding threats, the local art scene thrived in 2011

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

In what seems to be becoming a trend, the arts began the year under attack from state politicians. But, just like 2010, this year will be remembered for great exhibitions and local talent getting the recognition they deserve.

Once again the State Council on the Arts was put on the chopping block, as legislators tried to cut any and everything from the state budget. This also happened in 2010, but 2011 was different because steps were taken to go even further. In fact, the House Finance Committee voted to dismantle the Department of Cultural Resources and allocate its various offices to other state departments. That decision, had it not been voted down by the Senate, would have made New Hampshire the only state in the country without a centralized arts council.

The arts also struggled because of a weak economy when many people had less disposable income to spend on art. But not everyone. Sarah Chaffee of McGowan Fine Art said it is always gratifying when people still put down cash for art even in difficult times. "It still ranks high in many people's budgets," Chaffee said.

She was also hopeful, saying that things weren't going to get any worse and in fact would improve. This is a good thing because New Hampshire, of all states, should have a thriving arts scene.

Two of the state's most prominent artists had major retrospectives of their work this past year. Jon Brooks' wild wooden furniture was on display beginning in March at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. Brooks' "Collaboration with Nature" showed visitors that furniture can be both functional and artistic. Potter Gerry Williams, who was previously honored with the state's Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure Award, exhibited his work in September at Colby-Sawyer College in New London.

While it was a good year for legendary artists, it also brought some new blood into the state. Nashua's Main Street got a nice boost with the addition of 263 Gallery, which is owned by Pong Maynard and is located on the second floor of an old Victorian home where it joins hair stylists, a nail salon and a massage therapist as part of a house of beauty. And the Picker Building, also in Nashua, became better known as a house of art. There are numerous jewelry makers, photographers, sculptors and potters within the old mill building. They opened up their studios in a joint venture in May.

Manchester also got a new gallery, called Sage Gallery... A

Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place. It is owned by Janice Donnelly and features both traditional artists and metaphysical readers. Perhaps the new studio with the coolest introduction was Wyatt Art Studios in Rochester, which during its first few months exhibited prints by famed rock & roll photographer Bob Gruen. Owner Matt Wyatt said he wanted to put Rochester on the map. Showing off the legendary photo of John Lennon in circular sunglasses and a New York City T-shirt was a good start.

That exhibit was just an appetizer of rock photos compared to the main course that was on display at the Currier. The museum featured the personal collection of one avid rock photography collector, which included intimate shots of rock royalty including Elvis, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Janis Joplin, Grace Jones and Kurt Cobain, to name but a few. The exhibit "Backstage Pass: Rock & Roll Photography" (which is continuing until Jan. 15) is a double whammy of famous names both in front of and behind the lens. The images were taken by more than 50 photographers including Kate Simon, Laura Levine and, yes, Bob Gruen.

This popular take on art wasn't lost on independent filmmaker Rick Dumont of Sweaty Turtle Productions, whose Up from the Underground gatherings showcased artists of all kinds, many of them just beginning their careers.

"There are some amazing artists in the state," Dumont said previously. "You don't have to go to the Louvre to see phenomenal art. You can come to this event and actually take the art home with you."

Many of these careers began at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, which continued to expand, creating a larger footprint and a bigger impact in Manchester. The institute brought big names to its campus, like Chris Van Allsburg, writer and illustrator of *The Polar Express*.

This year some artists traveled great distances to create new works. Art teacher and sculptor Andy Moerlein and his close friend, Boston artist Donna Dodson, spent two months at a high-altitude sculpture residency in Verbier, Switzerland. The two sculptors, along with artists from Switzerland, Britain and New York, created large monuments that sit atop a Swiss mountain.

Others worked closer to home, like the group of artists who transformed Cat Alley in Manchester. And everyone could see the world's best art without ever leaving their homes, thanks to the Google Art Project, googleartproject.com.

"I am a huge fan of the Google Art Project, as it makes some of the finest collections of art accessible to everybody with an



Mirabelle Photographer, *The Beatles*, 1964. Private Collection. Mark and Colleen Hayward Archive. From the "Backstage Pass: Rock & Roll Photography" at the Currier Museum of Art.

Internet connection," artist Ryan Haywood previously wrote via e-mail. "It is a remarkably ambitious program, in that you can actually take a virtual tour of these museums."

The Google Art Project was certainly revolutionary, but so was Not Your Grandma's Craft Fair, which was held in November in Manchester and exposed a whole new generation to crafts. It was created by two friends, Jessica Gilcreast and Heather Marr, who wanted to gather, in a single room, all of the talented people in the area creating handmade alternative crafts.

The state also enjoyed another installment in the longest-running craft fair in U.S. history, as the League of NH Craftsmen held its annual fair for the 78th year in a row. It was a big year for the League, which got a new headquarters and educational center in Concord.

The Soo Rye Gallery in Rye hired David Christopher as its new director; "It is pretty exciting," Christopher previously said.

It may be the beginning for Christopher, but 2011 brought the retirement of Mary McGowan. After more than 30 years, McGowan stepped down as head of McGowan Fine Art in Concord and handed the reins over to Sarah Chaffee.

"She [Mary] really pushed people to value art," Chaffee previously said. "She really got people to understand the importance of art."

16 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

18 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

20 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

• **FIRST THURSDAYS** The Currier Museum of Art is open late from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. first Thursday of each month with special programs including live music, lectures and film, at 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 ext. 108 or see currier.org for tickets.

• **HOLIDAY FINE ART** will be held through Dec. 30 at the NH Art Association, 136 State St., Portsmouth. Visit nhartassociation.org.

• **WINTER LIGHTS IV ART EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 1 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit loadingdockgallery.com or call 978-349-8069.

Gallery openings

• **50 UNDER 50** Multi-artist exhibit on display Jan. 4 through Jan. 29 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western

Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. There will be an artist reception on Fri., Jan. 6, 6-9 p.m. Visit thelockingdockgallery.com or call 978-349-8069.

• **AN ECLECTIC FOCUS** Work of Ken Harvey will be on display in January and February at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Sat., Jan. 7, 3-5 p.m. Call 589-4610.

In the galleries

• **ABOUT FACE:** New Paintings by Kendra O'Donnell will be on display through April 27 at the Robert M. Larsen Gallery at Sulloway & Hollis, 29 School St., Concord. Call 225-2515.

• **ANITA PERRY** work is on display through December at the UNH Graduate School Manchester Campus, 4th floor, 286 Commercial St., Manchester. Call 641-4313 or visit gradschool.unh.edu/manchester.

unh.edu/manchester.

• **ART FROM THE HARBOR GALLERY** will be held through December at the UNH School of Law, Two White St., Concord. Galler hours are weekdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 228-1541.

• **BOB GRUEN** Rock & Roll photography will be on display through February at Wyatt Art Studios, 87 North Main St., Rochester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays, noon-7 p.m. Visit wyattartstudios.com or call 207-200-1925.

• **BACKSTAGE PASS:** Rock & Roll Photography. Exhibit will be on display through Jan. 15 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **CLOSE TO HOME** Multi-artist exhibit through Dec. 31 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit eastcolony.com.

• **DAVID McPHAIL:** Looking Back... and Beyond will be on display through December at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission to view gallery only. Call 742-2002 or visit childrens-museum.org.

• **DONNA GERTLER** will be the artist of the month for December and January at the Re/Max Properties, 2 Ash St., Hollis. E-mail Pat at PHurd1503@aol.com.

• **DRU CHICHESTER** work will be on display through December at the Rosewood Mall Art Gallery, 150 Lafayette Road, Rye. Hours are daily, 8:30-10 p.m. Call 964-9700.

• **FACES OF NASHUA** Photographic essays will be on display through Dec. 31 at the Nelson Building, 100 Main St., Nashua. E-mail mark@studio-markemile.com.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the

Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **FULL CIRCLE:** Dahlov Ipcar's Circle Paintings, with a Round of Marguerite and William Zorach and Selected Works from the Boston Sculptors Gallery will be on display through September at the Paul Creative Arts Center at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Gallery hours are: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and weekends, 1-5 p.m. Call 862-3712 or visit unh.edu/moa.

• **HOLIDAY MINIATURES EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 13 at the Sharon Arts Downtown Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **ICONS OF HISTORY:** Objects that Define New Hampshire. Objects will be on display through Dec. 31 at the New Hampshire Historical Society's

museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **KIMBERLY PECK** work will be on display through Jan. 31 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Rte. 101A, Milford. Gallery open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 673-8499 or visit nhantiquecoop.com.

• **MONIQUE SAKELLARIOS** Work will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 589-4610.

• **NANCY HUBBE** December and January artist at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.

• **NATIVITIY SCENES** will be on display through Dec. 31 at the America's Credit Union Museum, 420 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.-



LOCAL COLOR

• **New studio in Manchester:** Nick Gassek, his brother Brennan, and their buddy Geof Gagnon love music and the arts. They have for years, which is why it makes sense that the three are opening a new studio in Manchester behind Murphy's Taproom. Misdirected Media, LLC, will run an audio/video studio that will make recording music or creating videos easier for local artists. The roughly 1,500-square-foot space is divided into sections: live recording, an isolation booth for vocals, a main control room and an office for videos. Nick Gassek studied film at Keene State, while his brother and Gagnon have been in bands. They hope the studio, which should be finished in January, will help local artists. "We want to push Manchester to become a staple in the art world," Nick said. There is also plenty of space for photographers to do a shoot, there is a green space area for videos and down the line the studio could be used as an art gallery, as the trio has friends who are painters and sculptors. Gassek said they already had a few projects lined up for when they open and are hoping to book more. Visit misdirected-media.com.

• **Moerlein heads to Boston:** Andy Moerlein, sculptor and teacher at Derryfield School in Manchester, will have his first

solo exhibition at the Boston Sculptors Gallery, 486 Harrison Ave. in Boston. The show, called "Avian Language," brings together naturalism and symbolism. His pieces feature shaped wood, altered trees and ceramic birds. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. The show, which opens Jan. 4, runs through Feb. 3, and Moerlein will be there in person on Sundays. Also exhibiting at the same time will be Moerlein's longtime friend and fellow artist Donna Dodson. Her wood sculptures called "Flock Together" show 16 versions of the female form with bird heads. Visit bostonsculptors.com or call 617-482-7781.

• **Bringing Jimmy back:** The Sharon Arts Center has reached its goal of \$10,000 and will bring back cardboard sculptor James Grashow. Grashow, who created one of the most famous exhibits in the history of the center, will return this spring. He will be collaborating with more than 100 children on an installation called "The Garden of Imagination." It was Sharon Arts' new executive director, Keri Wiederspahn, who kick-started the fundraising campaign. Donations came from art lovers. Visit sharonarts.org or call 924-7676. —Adam Coughlin

noon and 1-4 p.m. and on Sat., Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 629-1553.

• **NEIL WETHERBEE** Photographs will be on display through early January at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Visit amherst.lib.nh.us or call 673-2288.

• **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through the summer at the Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, 69 Maple St., Center Sandwich. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Call 284-7728 or visit patricialaddcarega.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **PRECIOUS** Multi-artist holiday exhibit through Jan. 15 at Soo Rye Art Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. Call 319-1578 or visit soorye.com.

• **RALPH STONE JACOBS** Work will be on display through Jan. 13 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Call 225-2515 or visit mcgowanfineart.com.

• **SAM PAOLINI** Work will be on display through March at the Steez Gallery, 85 W Pearl St., Nashua. Visit thesteezgallery.com.

• **SILENT AUCTION** held every third Thursday of the month through December, 6-9 p.m. at 100 Main St., Nashua. Call 930-0623.

• **SMALL WORKS** will be on display through Dec. 31 at Lucy's Art Emporium, 303 Central Ave., Dover. Visit lucysartemporium.com.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit silverhillstudio.com or call 497-4674.

• **WATER** Works by Kathy Tangney will be on display through Dec. 31 at Sage Gallery... a Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place, 70 Lowell

In a gallery near you



Harvey on display in Nashua

The work of photographer Ken Harvey will be on display in January and February at the Nashua Public Library Image Gallery, 2 Court St., Nashua. Harvey received his formal art training while studying architecture. His love of photography grew when he was stationed in Germany in the 1960s with the U.S. Army. This exhibit is called "An Eclectic Focus," which represents Harvey's varied style. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Call Carol at 589-4610. Work of Ken Harvey. Courtesy photo.

In a gallery near you



Faeries fly to Manchester

2011 was a great year for the Sage Gallery... A Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place, and 2012 promises to be even better. The first exhibition of the new year will feature the works of Debra LaPointe of New Boston and Janice Donnelly, who owns the gallery. Their works are very different — LaPointe is known for her Faerie Houses and Donnelly for oil paintings. The works will be on display through January. There will be a reception on Friday, Jan. 13, from 5 to 9 p.m. During the reception, there will be metaphysical readings by Denise Lavoie of Mason. The reception is free and open to the public. Visit sagegallery.net or call 626-SAGE (7243). Work of Debra LaPointe. Courtesy

St., Manchester. Call 626-7243 or visit sagegallery.net.

THEATER LISTINGS

• **The Acting Loft**
670 North Commercial Street,
Manchester in the Jefferson Mill
Building.666-5999, actingloft.org

• **Actorsingers**
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691,
actorsingers.org
• **Adams Memorial Opera House**
29 W. Broadway, Derry,
437-0505, derryarts.org
• **Amato Family Center for the**

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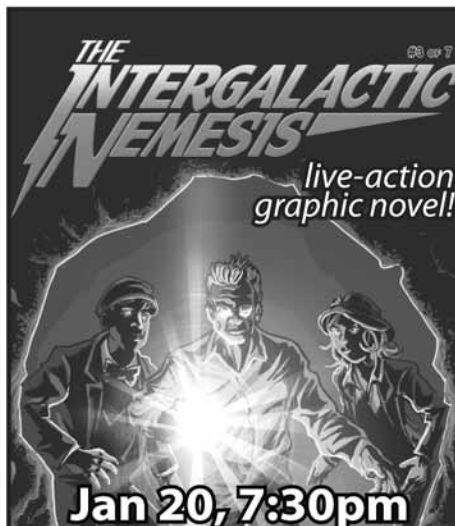


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THEATER

Theater does risk

New shows hit local stages in 2011

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Theater folk in New Hampshire will remember 2011 as a year of big risks with even bigger rewards.

"It was a year of pushing the limits on what community theater can do," said Deborah Shaw, who had a busy year. "This year raised the level of the quality it can bring to the stage."

Shaw directed *Almost, Maine* for the Milford Area Players in March and was also the first to bring the 2008 Pulitzer Prize winning play *August: Osage County* to New Hampshire.

"We were the first in this area," Shaw said. "It went from its Broadway national tour to Milford. That was very exciting. It was an amazing and an extremely busy year for me personally."

In August, Ghostlight Theatre Co. of New England turned up the heat with its production of *Debbie Does Dallas, the Musical*. The musical is based upon the 1978 pornographic film, but the sex scenes were replaced with musical numbers. The musical was put on inside Milly's Tavern, which added to the flair.

Manchester's Acting Loft pushed the bar even higher by making its audiences truly think during two performances over the past year. The first was Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, which follows the men and women who assassinated or tried to assassinate various presidents of the United States. While this piece had people wondering whether it was appropriate to laugh, Acting Loft Artistic Director Chris Courage was just warming up. In December, Courage put on *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queen*, which is a musical theater piece composed of free verse poems and songs reflecting the lives of people who have lived with and died from AIDS. The performance was tied to World AIDS Day and worked as an educational piece. Courage solicited non-actors to do many of the monologues.

Peter Baron's musical brought history to life. Baron, a plumber and playwright from Hooksett, put on *Boomers* in an Off-Broadway run in New York City this summer. Recently Baron said he hopes to bring the musical back to New Hampshire, perhaps in 2012.

The epicenter for great musicals in New Hampshire is still the Palace Theatre, which seemed to understand this trend of unique performances and was certainly not left behind. Palace Artistic Director Carl Rajotte wrote and produced an original performance last year, *The Four Piano Men*, which is a blend of tribute show, concert and interpretive dance featuring the songs of Elton John, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder and Freddie Mercury. The theater also kicked off its 2011-2012 season with the hilarious *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, which follows couples through the various stages of life. And while the Palace prides itself on importing terrific talent from New York City it featured Manchester's own Lindsey Clayton in *Gypsy* and *Dolls*.

Clayton made a homecoming while Buckhill Productions made its debut with *Cole*, a show all about the music of Cole Porter.

The New Thalian Players are certainly not new, but they did become new and improved this year by creating a partnership with Southern New Hampshire University. Their first



Jessi Nappo in *Debbie Does Dallas, the Musical*. Courtesy photo.

collaborative effort was *A New Brain*, which tells the story of a young composer, Gordon Schwinn, who has a life-threatening brain disease and will need to have invasive surgery. He is afraid that he may die with amazing songs still in his head that will never be heard.

Theater All Around also sprang onto the scene this past year — literally. This new theater group spontaneously bursts out into performances of Shakespeare. No park, parking lot or sidewalk is safe.

Amy Beach may not have the same name recognition as Shakespeare, but she is one of America's most famous composers. She is better known now after the Henniker Youth Theatre put on a performance about her over the summer. Artistic Director Tom Dunn said he hoped to adapt the play for an adult version at some point.

One theater company found a new home while another added on to its current one. The Majestic Theatre, long synonymous with Manchester's West Side, has moved its day-to-day operations across the river to the Ted Herbert building on Elm Street. The Majestic dazzled audiences earlier in the year with its *Frankenstein*.

Out in Portsmouth, the Music Hall opened an additional space, The Music Hall Loft, in April. In the new venue, located at 131 Congress St. which is near the Music Hall's historic theater, there are office upgrades, more educational space and a more intimate setting for series like Live@theLoft, Writers in the Loft, and Currents@theLoft.

The Ninth Annual New Hampshire Theatre Awards were held in February at the Palace. The big professional winners of the night were *Freud's Last Session* by the Peterborough Players and *The Pirates of Penzance* by the New London Barn Playhouse.

Concord was host to The New England Regional Theater Festival, which was held in March and showed off two local shows, M & M Productions' performance of Lowell Williams' original *Six Nights in the Black Belt* and the dramatic reading of *Animal Farm* by the Milford Area Players.

The Nashua Theatre Guild took a chance in September with the New Hampshire debut of *Art of Murder*, which took a behind-the-scenes look at the world of high-priced art. Only fittingly, Deborah Shaw directed that show as well. Shaw said people were on the edge of their seats. "You can't ask for more than that," Shaw previously said.

Curtain Calls

• **Sold out:** They may be moving but the folks at Majestic Theatre still know how to put on a show. Tickets to their always popular New Year's Eve performance are already sold out, according to Karen Bessette, development director at the theater. The dinner theater performance of *Murderous Crossing* might not be in your New Year's Eve plans, but it is just the first show of the theater's popular dinner-theater season, which runs from January through May. "So if you miss New Year's Eve show there are plenty of other chances to sign up," Bessette said. The dinner-theater shows are all performed at the Chateau restaurant in Manchester. While the dinner-theater shows are locked up, the Majestic is still in negotiations with the Manchester Community Music School and Mount Saint Mary's Academy. Bessette said everyone is excited about this partnership and they just need to finalize a few details. This deal would give the Majestic access to a large hall, which will allow it to continue to grow. Until then there is still tons to do, according to

Bessette, who said they are still packing up the office on the West Side and moving to an 1,800-square-foot office on the third floor of the Ted Herbert building on Elm Street. Bessette said any volunteers who wanted to help them move would be welcomed with open arms. Visit majestic-theatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **Beauty is skin deep:** Bedford Off Broadway will be holding auditions for Jon Lonoff's romantic comedy, *Skin Deep*, on Tuesday, Jan. 10, and Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7-9 p.m. upstairs at the Old Town Hall, across from 3 Meetinghouse Road in Bedford. In the play, which is directed by Joe Pelonzi, Maureen Mulligan decides to give love one last chance when she goes on a blind date with Joseph Spinelli, according to production notes. The date was set up by Maureen's sister, Sheila and her husband, Squire. Unfortunately, they're having their own problems.

These four roles are available. Monologues are not necessary, as a cold reading from the script will be done. Rehearsals, which begin in mid-January, will be held on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The show is scheduled for late March. Visit bedfordoffbroadway.com.

—Adam Coughlin

Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com

• **Andy's Summer Playhouse**
Wilton, 654-2613, andysummerplayhouse.org

• **Anselmian Abbey Players**
Dana Center, 641-7700

• **Bedford Off Broadway**
Meetinghouse Rd., Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com

• **Bedford Town Hall**
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford

• **Bedford Youth Performing Company**
155 Route 101, Bedford, www.bypc.org, 472-3894.

• **Belle Voci**
bellevoci.org, 848-7986

• **Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

• **Concord Chorale**
224-0770, concordchorale.org

• **Concord City Auditorium**
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793, www.theaudi.org

• **Concord Community Players**
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org

• **The Dana Center**
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu

• **The Hampstead Theatre**
1355 Suncook Valley Hwy., Ctr. Barnstead, 1-800-619-5302, www.hampsteadstage.org

• **The Majestic Theatre**
281 Cartier St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net

• **Manchester Community Music School**
2291 Elm St., 644-4548, mcmusicschool.org

• **Manchester Community Theatre and Second Stage**
Professional Co. 698 Beech St., Manchester, 627-8787

• **Milford Area Players**
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org

• **Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps**

On stage



Try the remaining Phyzgig

If you've had your fair share of holiday cookies and presents, then leave the house and check out some true vaudeville entertainment at Phyzgig South, the southern migration of the famed Phyzgig Festival of Portland, Maine. The shows, which will be held on Thursday, Dec. 29, and Friday, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m., feature magicians, acrobats, jugglers and clowns. Entertainers include juggler Randy Judkins and magician Phyl Smith. The shows will be held at the Pontine Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$15. Visit pontine.org or call 436-6660. Randy Judkins. Courtesy photo.

PO Box 5197, Manchester, 674-7650, www.muchachos.org

• **Music and Drama Company (MADCo.)**
Londonderry, madco.org

• **My Act**
myact.org, 429-3950

• **Nashua Theatre Guild**
PO Box 137, Nashua, 03061, 320-2530, nashuatheatreguild.org

• **New Thalian Players**
newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466

• **Nashua Community College Performing Arts Club (PAC)**
505 Amherst St., Nashua, 428-3544

• **The Palace Theatre**
80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

• **Peacock Players**
14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000, peacockplayers.org

• **Pittsfield Players**
6 Depot St., Pittsfield, 435-8852, pittsfieldplayers.com

• **Profile Chorus**
profilechorus.org

• **School of Theater Arts at The Amato Center for Performing Arts**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 20

• **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**
125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4472

• **SNHU Drama Club**
2500 North River Rd., Hooksett, 672-9664, stagecoachproductions.org

• **Stagecoach Productions**
7 Bayberry Way, Mont Vernon, 672-9664, stagecoachproductions.org

• **Stage One Productions**
Dinner Theatre at the Chateau Restaurant, 201 Hanover St., Manchester, 669-5511, stageoneprod.com

• **PHYZGIG SOUTH** will be held through Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. at the West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$15. Visit pontine.org.

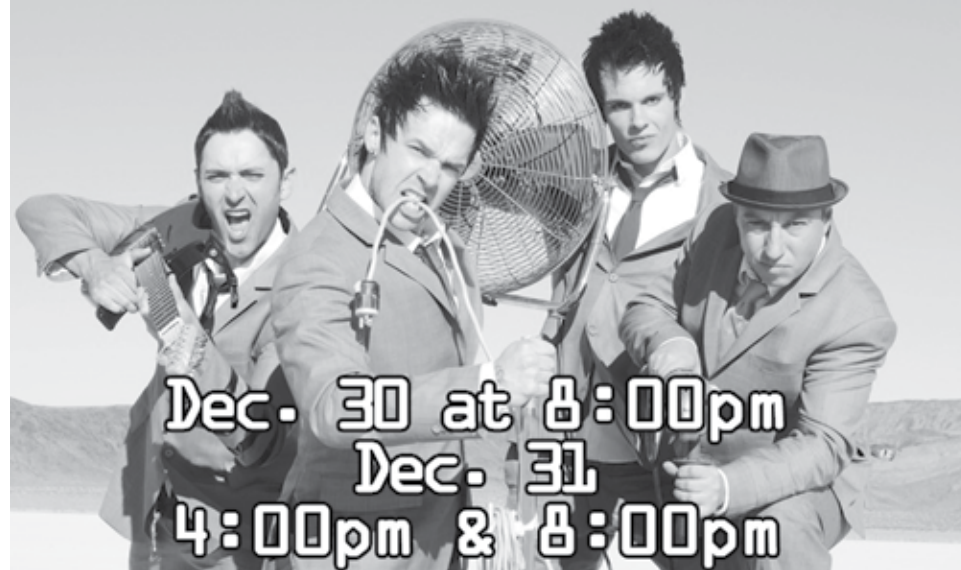
• **ANNUAL WINTER GALA** will be held on Thurs., Dec. 29, 7:30-10 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Visit andysummerplayhouse.org or e-mail info@andysummerplayhouse.org.

• **AMY BEACH STORIES** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Hillsboro Deering High School, 12 Hillcat Dr., Hillsborough. Admission by donation. Call 568-5102 or e-mail dunn.t@comcast.net.

• **HANSEL AND GRETEL** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Thurs., Dec. 29, at 1 p.m. at the



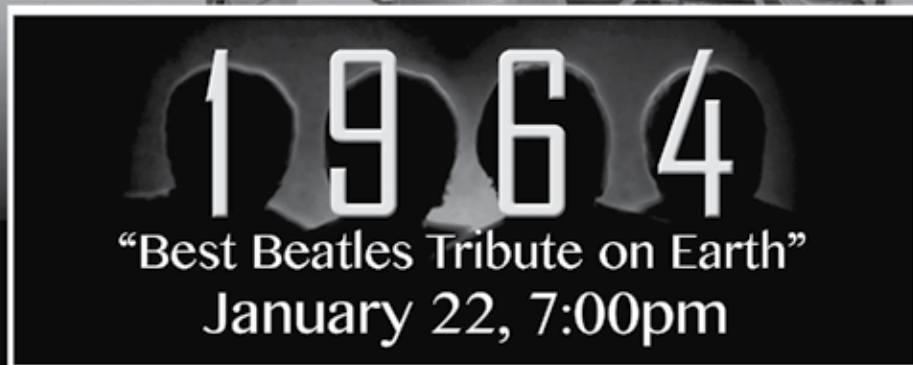
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Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$12.50. Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **IS THERE FAT IN THAT?** will be performed Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m., Fri., Dec. 30, and Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 1, at 2 p.m. at the Players Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students). Call 436-8123 or visit playersring.org.

• **BY REQUEST 3** will be performed on Sun., Jan. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$20. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

• **THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE** will be performed Jan. 5 through Jan. 29 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass. Tickets begin at \$24. Visit merrimackrep.org or call 978-654-4678.

• **TWELFTH NIGHT** will be performed Jan. 6- Jan. 22, at the NH Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$24 (\$18 for seniors and students). Call 431-6644 or e-mail info@nhtheatreproject.org.

• **POLITICAL SUICIDE** Four short plays by Ernest Thompson will be performed on Sun., Jan. 8, Mon., Jan. 9, Tues., Jan. 10, Fri., Jan. 13, Sat., Jan. 14, and Sun., Jan. 15, and Fri., Feb. 3, Sat., Feb. 4, and Sun., Feb. 5, and Fri., Feb. 10, Sat., Feb. 11, and Sun., Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. and Sundays, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Feb. 5, and Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at Pitman's Freight Room, 94 New Salem St., Laconia. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for seniors and students). Call 744-3652 or visit whitebridgefarmproductions.com.

• **MAMMA MIA!** will be performed on Tues., Jan. 10, and Wed., Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$50, \$70 and \$100. Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• **TRIP TO BROADWAY** Will leave Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester at 8:30 a.m. on Fri., Jan. 13, and will leave New York City on Sun., Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$525 per person. Includes round-trip bus fare, two nights in a hotel and a ticket to *Sister Act*. Call 668-5588 or e-mail tinakelly@palacetheatre.org.

• **FRANKENSTEIN: THE MODERN PROMETHEUS** will be performed on Fri., Jan. 13, and Sat., Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 15, at 2 p.m. at Nashua North High School, 10 Chuck Druding Dr., Nashua. Tickets cost \$10 at the door. Call 557-2321.

Auditions/open calls

• **SKIN DEEP** Auditions will be held on Tues., Jan. 10, and Wed., Jan. 11, 7-9 p.m. in the upstairs of the Old Town Hall, across from 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Rehearsals will be Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The show is in March. Visit bedfordbroadway.com.

• **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES, THE MUSICAL** The audition will be held Sat., Jan. 28, and Sun., Jan. 29, 1-4 p.m. at the Amato Theatre, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Visit svbge.org or call 465-3456.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

• **CAROL'S OF THE EPIPHANY SEASON** will be performed on Sun., Jan. 8, at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Centre St., Concord. Free admission. Call 424-4743.

• **OPEN SING** Concord Chorale will host on Mon., Jan. 9, at 7:15 p.m. at the Concord Community

On stage



Time to get Fat

Ellen Domingos seemed to have it all. Having grown up in Maine, she won a national beauty pageant, became an actress and a model in New York City. But during it all she battled an eating disorder. This is the topic of a play she both wrote and

stars in called *Is There Fat In That?*, which will be performed at the Players Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Shows are Thursday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 1, at 2 p.m. The show will be presented by Good Theater of Portland, Maine. Tickets cost \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students). Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123. Ellen Domingos. Courtesy photo.

On stage



See Beach in the winter

Amy Beach is one of America's greatest composers and she achieved her success during a time when virtually no other women were composing music. Despite all of this little is known of the Henniker-born Beach. Tom Dunn is trying to change that. Hillcat Community Theatre, of which Dunn is the artistic director, will perform *Amy Beach Stories* on Friday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.

at Hillsboro Deering High School, Hillcat Drive, Hillsborough. Beach was born in Henniker in 1867 and lived there until she was 6, when she moved to Boston. In Boston, she became a member of the Attic Club, which was a group of young girls who would meet once a month and share stories. Beach was a child prodigy who was able to write art songs, operas and full orchestra pieces by 16. Admission is by donation. Call 568-5102 or e-mail dunn.t@comcast.net. Amy Beach. Courtesy photo.

Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. Visit concordchorale.org.

• **FACULTY CONCERT** will be performed on Sat., Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. at the Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 862-2404 or visit unh.edu/music.

• **HIGH STRUNG** Nashua Symphony will be performed on Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **THE CHORAL GALA** will be performed on Sat., Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 862-2404 or visit unh.edu/music.

• **FANFARE 2012** Nashua Symphony will perform on Fri., Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. Tickets cost \$75. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.

• **DMITRY KOUZOV** Cellist will perform on Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **NASHUA SYMPHONY STRING QUARTET** Performance will be held on Thurs., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.

• **CORDIS QUARTET** will be performed Fri., March 3, at 7 p.m. at the

Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **CELTIC JOURNEY** NH Philharmonic will perform on Sat., March 17, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15 to \$50. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **SIMPLY GREAT** Nashua Symphony will be performed on Sat., March 17, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **THE HEIGHT OF RUSSIAN ROMANTICISM** Concert will be performed on Sat., March 24, at 8 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10 to \$35. Call 226-4776 or visit gsso.org.

• **TAKACS QUARTET** will be performed on Wed., April 11, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **25th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** The Saint Anselm College Choir will perform on Sat., April 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/abbey/choir.

• **NATION BUILDING** Nashua Symphony will be performed on Sat., April 14, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **SNHU COMMUNITY BAND** Performance will be held on Mon., April 16, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit snhu.edu/music.

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Nashua	\$436,000	\$16,893	\$419,107
Windham	\$63,000	\$1,311	\$61,689
Salem	\$37,000	\$6,100	\$30,900

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From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

Face-off in the pool

Underwater hockey scores at Nashua YMCA

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

A puck, wooden sticks, two refs and 20 players are all part of Chris Niezrecki's new hockey club at the Nashua YMCA, but the ice is melted, snorkels are worn instead of helmets, and flippers replace skates. This game is played in the water.

"When I tell people that I play underwater hockey, there is usually a double-take," Niezrecki said. "But it's a great sport to meet new people, and it's something that you'll improve at very quickly."

Underwater hockey (UWH) is played at the bottom of a pool, and players clad in a mask, fins, snorkel and a competitive spirit maneuver a nylon-coated lead puck with a 12-inch-long wooden stick. Despite the difference in equipment, the game is played almost exactly like regular hockey, said Niezrecki, with one additional element: the lack of oxygen underwater. People who play underwater hockey will see dramatic increases in their swimming, snorkeling and free diving skills, but prior experience is not required.

The only requirement, Niezrecki said, is to enjoy swimming.

The club will begin on Sunday, Jan. 8, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. As this is one of the first underwater hockey clubs in New Hampshire, no experience is necessary or even expected. Niezrecki expects that the first meetings will cover the basics in playing, and that members will primarily scrimmage against one another. However, Niezrecki expects that players will eventually yearn to play in more competitive games, as has been the case in other teams he's been a part of.

He began playing water hockey as a graduate student at Virginia Tech. He started the University of Florida's underwater hockey

team in Gainesville while teaching as a professor there. After moving to Merrimack in 2004, he started the water hockey club at UMass-Lowell, where he works as a professor. The students on the college team have really taken to the game.

"I absolutely love the sport," said Diana Madden, a member and captain of the UMass-Lowell underwater hockey club. "It's so much fun. I was a swimmer in high school, and I wanted to find something different. And I did — it is very different from any other sport I've ever played."

Madden, who has been playing underwater hockey for almost two years now, said it took her four or five months to get the hang of the sport, but it's something that you get better at in time and all ages can play. Niezrecki said he often plays underwater hockey with people in their 60s.

"It's very much a three-dimensional game. Timing, underwater finesse, and three-dimensional awareness are all critical in underwater hockey," Niezrecki said. "People are often surprised at how challenging it actually is and how fast-paced it can be. It takes a few practices to get used to, as it's not a natural thing for the body to exert itself while holding your breath." This is why the game must be very team-oriented; everyone needs to breathe, and thus, one player cannot carry the entire team.

He's been eager to begin an underwater hockey team in New Hampshire since he moved to Merrimack. Because there are few pools in the area with adequate amenities for the sport, Niezrecki held back on starting his club until the Nashua YMCA built its new pool (24 Stadium Drive, Nashua). He is also still active as the UMass-Lowell coach, and he plays in Westwood, Mass., once a week.

The sport is not as popular in the United States as it is in say, South Africa, Austra-



An underwater hockey club will start this January at the new Nashua YMCA pool. Courtesy photo.

lia and France, but it is growing, Niezrecki said. Every two years, the United States participates in the Underwater Hockey World Championships.

And while Niezrecki loves swimming and loves the sport, what draws him most to continue to play is the community that underwater hockey attracts.

"The people who tend to pick up the sport are very welcoming and friendly," Niezrecki said.

Madden also enjoys the sport because of the people it enables her to meet: "A lot of my good friends are on the team, and I've met people all over the world through different tournaments we play in," she said.

It's also extremely accessible to those who travel. There seems to be an underwater hockey circle throughout the United States, a community through which underwater hockey players can find others online throughout the country. Niezrecki said he finds teams to play with every time he travels through a site called "Underwater Hockey Tourist," <https://pucku.org/tourist>. Visit www.nmymca.org/programs/programs-by-type/?type=10 to register. YMCA membership is not required in order to sign up; registration is \$70 for members, \$90 for non-members. More information on underwater hockey in general can be found at www.usauwh.com. Niezrecki can be reached at 424-5598 or Niezrecki@yahoo.com.

CHILDREN & TEENS
Libraries <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amherst Town Library 14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us• Bedford Library 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us• Concord Public Library 45 Green St, Concord, 225-8670, onconcord.com• Hollis Social Library 2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us• Hooksett Public Library 1701 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksett.lib.nh.us• Manchester City Library 405 Pine St., 624-6550; 76 N. Main St., 624-6560; manchester.lib.nh.us• Nashua Public Library 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4631, nashualibrary.org• Pollard Memorial Library 401 Merrimack St., in Lowell, Mass, 978-970-4120, pollardml.org• Rodgers Memorial Library 194 Derry Road, Hudson, rogerslibrary.org• Wadleigh Memorial Library 49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408,

wadleigh.lib.nh.us
Museums <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Children's Museum of NH 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org• Mariposa Museum 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org
Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amoskeag Fishways 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org• Beaver Brook Association 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org• Charmingfare Farm Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visiththefarm.com• Daniel Webster Council of Boy Scouts 571 Holt Ave., Manchester, 625-6431, nhscouting.org• Educational Farm at Joppa Hill 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org• Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains One Commerce Drive, Bedford, 627-4158, girlscoutsgwm.org

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Massabesic Audubon Center 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org• McLane Audubon Center 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org
--

Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com• RoboTech Center 110 DW Highway, Nashua, 888-6102, robotechcenter.com• Seacoast Science Center 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org• SEE Science Center 200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org

Events <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MOVIES at the Manchester Library this month will be <i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</i> on Fri., Dec. 30. Visit www.manchester.library.org or call 624-6460.• VACATION FAMILY MOVIES at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Rd., Hudson) at 1:30 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 30, <i>Dolphin Tales</i>. Snacks will be served. Bring own comfy chairs, if desired. Call 886-6030.• TRAVEL CLUB at the Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, meets

every month to take a "journey" to a different country. On Tues., Jan 24, visit Canada, and on Tues., Feb 28, visit China. For grades K-5. Registration recommended. Call 624-6550, ext. 328.
• TIME CAPSULES can be made at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Thus., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Blanchard Room. Capsules to be opened in 2013! Free event.
• RPG ADVENTURES at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Thus., Dec. 29 at 2 p.m. Fun and games for children 13-17 who want to delve into a world of Mountain Dew, wizards and dragons. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen . Call 589-4610.
• NEW YEAR'S PARTY on Fri., Dec. 30, at 11:30 a.m. in the Winchell Room at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). Ring in the new year with noisemakers, balloons and confetti. Children aged invited to the celebration. Registration required. Call 624-6550 ext. 335.
• FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org , Sat., Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ring in the New Year with family and friends of all ages than at the Children's Museum of NH's annual New Year's Eve celebration. Create festive party hats, write wishes for the new year on flying blimps, and join in raucous "count-

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

celebrate New Year's

• Even if you're not allowed to stay up until midnight, you can attend the **New Year's Party** on Friday, Dec. 30, at 11:30 a.m. in the Winchell Room at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). Ring in the new year with noisemakers, balloons and confetti. Children of all ages are invited to the celebration. Registration required. Call 624-6550, ext. 335.

• The Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org, will also be holding a **Family New Year's Celebration** on Saturday, Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ring in the New Year with family and friends of all ages. Create festive party hats, write wishes for the new year on blimps, and join in raucous "countdowns to midnight" at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Complete with glittering ball drop and ginger ale toast.

• Create something you can enjoy two New Year's from now. **Time capsules** can be made at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Blanchard Room. Capsules

to be opened in 2013! This is a free event.

Game Time!

• **RPG Adventures** will take place at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 2 p.m. The event will include fun and games for children 13-17 who want to delve into a world of Mountain Dew, wizards and dragons. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

• Want some gaming tips? **Play Date NH** invites youth age 12-18 to learn, play and enjoy new card, strategy and board games. Semi-professional gaming geeks will be on hand to mentor new players in classic and modern games. It happens Thursday, Dec. 29, from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Winchell Room at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester).

• Or stick to the classic board games. **Game Time** will take place at Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, on Friday, Dec. 30, at 1 p.m. Kids 10 and up are invited to join in and play Guesstimation and Name 5. Call 668-5557.

Animals

• Learn how to track animals! **Winter Nature**

Explorations: Animals Tracks will be held by the Rey Center at the Curious George Cottage (7 Noon Peak Road, Waterville Valley) on Friday, Dec. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn about the tracks and signs that animals leave behind in the snow and forests. The group will find wildlife outside during this adventure, which is designed for adults and families with children over 5. Bring snowshoes or rent a pair in advance from the Nordic Center in Town Square. Dress in warm layers. Admission is \$7 per person or \$15 per family.

• Learn about the **Reality of Worms in Space** at this week's "Super Stellar Friday" event. The lecture will be hosted by Stephen Peregrin, Ph.D. candidate and researcher at UMass Boston's physics department, on Friday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is \$9 (seniors/students \$8, children \$6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time. Call 271-7827.

downs to midnight" at 11 a.m., 12:30 and 2 p.m. Complete with glittering ball drop and ginger ale toast.

• **GAME TIME** for game-board lovers at Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, on Fri., Dec. 30, at 1 p.m. Kids 10 and up are invited to join in and play Guesstimation and Name 5. Call 668-5557.

• **CHILDREN'S FREE FAMILY NIGHT** at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington Street, Dover, 742-2-2002, www.childrens-museum.org) on Fri., Jan. 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. This special evening will be open to families free of charge. Activities related to health and fitness are planned for event.

• **TEEN GAMING NIGHT** Wii Wednesday at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) will take place 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan 11, in the Keyes meeting room. Bring DS, PSP, controllers or games (rated T or lower) to play. Snacks provided.

• **BAG BOOK SALE** on Sat., Jan 28, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). One of the best bargains of the year, buy books for children and young adults, VHS tapes, DVD's, audiobooks, etc. for just \$5 per bag. Contact Eileen A. Reddy at ereddy@manchesternh.gov or call her at 624-6550 ext. 320.

• **VALENTINE'S FUN** on Mon., Feb. 13, at 10 a.m., in the Winchell Room at the Manchester Public Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). Listen to stories, play games, and make cute Valentine's crafts. For ages 2-5. Call 624-6550, ext. 335.

• **IRON CHEF NO-BAKE DESERT BATTLE** will take place at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Tues., Feb 14, at 4 p.m. Each competitor has 30 minutes to whip up a concoction with a microwave, blender and secret ingredient. For ages 11 to 17. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

• **SUPER SMASH BROS: BRAWL** on Tues., Feb. 28, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the Winchell Room in the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester). Play Wii and participate in Super Smash Bros Brawl tournament!

Martial arts

• **ACADEMY OF HEALTH & MARTIAL ARTS** (locations in Manchester, 626-5272, Milford, 672-1333, and Nashua, 598-4200, academy-martialarts.com) offers classes for children and teenagers. All classes are one hour. Some special sessions for new students are free of charge.

• **COBRA KHAN'S MARTIAL**

ARTS ACADEMY (865 2nd St., Manchester, 623-5778) specializes in children's lessons and welcomes kids as young as 3 years old. The academy offers group and private lessons.

• **GRANITE STATE AIKIDO CLUB** is starting a free beginner kids aikido program at Manchester Police Athletic League for mature children ages 6-12 (but older kids are welcome) running Fridays 4:30-6 p.m. at the PAL at the corner of Beech and Lake streets. Older youth may be better suited to adult classes (Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m., Fridays 6:30-8 p.m., and Saturdays 2-4 and 4-5 p.m.). Visit www.gsaikido.com.

• **HOUSE OF SAMURAI** (28 Buttrick Road, Londonderry, 434-1445, www.karatenh.com) offers classes for children age 3+. Each class includes warm-up activities, karate basics, positive reinforcement of expected behavior, questions, and game time. Junior classes are for ages 6 to 13 and are sub-divided into novice, intermediate and advanced. Juniors are encouraged to attend class two times a week.

• **KENPO ACADEMY OF SELF-DEFENSE** (40 Manchester Road, Derry, 437-9900, www.kenpo-academy.com) has programs including Little Dragons (age 4 & 5), Juniors (age 6 to 9) and Junior Adults (age 10 to 16). Little Dragon are Satur-

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Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

Hi Donna,
I was wondering if you could help me with an old Santa that I have. I've had him for 20 years or so. I bought him at a yard sale with two other Santas (from the '50s or '60s) for \$2. He's in very good condition, except for his face, which is cracked (which is how I found him). I don't know what his face is made of; it's very fragile, though. He is approximately 13 inches tall. He has a cloth (felt-like) body, wooden shoes and an oilcloth-type apron. As mentioned, his face is cracked — does that mean that he is stuffed with excelsior? I am curious about his age, origin and value.
Ellie in Chester

Dear Ellie,
Your Santa is most likely from Germany and around the turn of the century (1900s). Santas are very collectible at this time of year and in general. A lot of time they are marked "made in Germany" or "made in Japan" but sometimes you come across one that isn't — but odds are it's from Germany. It's hard for me to tell without seeing the face, but it could be a plaster-like material or celluloid plastic — both commonly crack just from storing and temperature changes. The size and condition of your Santa are the determining factors in its value — and the rarity as well. I have to say, Ellie, I haven't seen this one yet so it has to be a rarer one. There are lots of reference books on just Christmas collectibles and Santas out there. I expect that



you could find a book with a picture of yours specifically in it if you try a bookstore or maybe do some online research. Based on rarity and condition, I think your Santa would be somewhere in the area of \$300+ to a collector (depending on how bad the damage to the face is). Not a bad investment for \$2. Nice collectible!

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

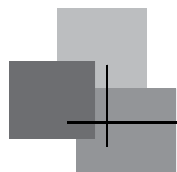
days, 9-9:30 a.m., Juniors and Junior Adults are daily (except Friday) depending on level.

- **MANCHESTER KARATE STUDIO** (24 Bridge St., Manchester, 625-5835, manchesterkarate.com) offers children's lessons. Students receive two free lessons, a free uniform and a "Safer Smarter Kids" manual.
- **MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF TAE KWON DO** (Manchester YMCA, 35 Mechanic St., Manchester, mstkdo.com) offers Tae Kwon Do for Kids, for ages 6 to 16. Students will advance through the "Bar System," a tiered testing system developed especially for this program. The testing qualifications will be Blue Bar (five classes), Red Bar (12 classes), and Gold Bar (18 classes). This is the normal time frame for the standard class, but allows the younger students to mark their progress incrementally. Students may progress at a staggered pace, depending on the individual. Following a successful Gold bar testing the student will test for the Yellow stripe. Classes are one hour long.
- **MASTERS SELF DEFENSE CENTERS** (166 North Broadway, Salem, 898-7504, www.connect.to/masters) offers classes for as young as 3.
- **MLK SELF-DEFENSE ACADEMY** (323 South Willow St., Manchester, 625-4655, mlksda.com) offers a Kickin' Kids program where for each of the children's belt levels there are three goals. There is also a Little Ninjas and Little Dragons program, based on an age-specific curriculum professionally designed to teach children eight important life skills in a fun and enriching manner. Little Dragons and Little Ninjas meet 5-5:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and Kickin' Kids meet 5:40-6:25 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.
- **MORNING STAR MARTIAL ARTS** (307 Elm St., Milford, 654-7701, morningstarmartialarts.com) offers programs including Tiger Kids (age 4 to 6), Juniors (age 7 to 12) and Adult (13+).
- **PAUL AVERILL'S MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY** (3 North Main St., Concord, 223-0300, averillsmartialarts.com). Along with Kung Fu, Aikido, Chin Na, Tai Chi, and Qi Gong, the Academy has a children's program.
- **SIDEKICK TAE KWON DO** (Derry Plaza, Route 102, Londonderry, 434-4300, sidekicktaekwondo.com) offers classes for children six years old and over.
- **TERRY DOW'S ACADEMY OF MARTIAL ARTS** (200 Elm St., Manchester, 591-6546, www.terrydowsacademy.com) offers programs for children four years old and up. Beginner children's classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:15-6 p.m.
- **TOKYO JOE'S SELF DEFENSE** (1338 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 641-3444, tokyojoeshooksett.com) offers classes for kids through Saturdays. Call for schedule.
- **TOKYO JOE'S STUDIO OF SELF DEFENSE** (143 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 889-4165, tokyojoes.net) has programs including Little Panthers (age 3-4), Dragons (age 5-6) and Juniors (age 7-12) and a teen

program. Most classes are offered every day except Sunday.

Nature

- **FISHWAYS OPEN HOUSE** Amoskeag Fishways will hold an Open House on Dec. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., which will feature live animal shoes, crafts, treats and door prizes. Admission is free, and no pre-registration necessary. Call 626-3474.
- **WINTER NATURE EXPLORATIONS: ANIMAL TRACKS** will be held by the Rey Center at Curious George Cottage (7 Noon Peak Rd., Waterville Valley) on Fri., Dec. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about the tracks and signs that animals leave behind in the snow and in the forests. The group will find wildlife outside during the day-adventure, which is designed for adults and families with children over 5. Bring snowshoes or rent a pair in advance from the Nordic Center in Town Square. Dress in warm layers! Admission is \$4 per person or \$10 per family for members; \$7 per person or \$15 per family for non-members.
- **WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION** will be held by the Rey Center at Corcuran's Pond Beach in Waterville Valley on Thurs., Dec. 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join in on the bonfire that will celebrate the day that marks the return of the sun! Celebration will feature the telling of the solstice legend, singing and other solstice traditions. Hot cocoa, cider, and potluck deserts—so bring something delicious to share! Everyone is welcome! Suggested donation is \$5 per person.
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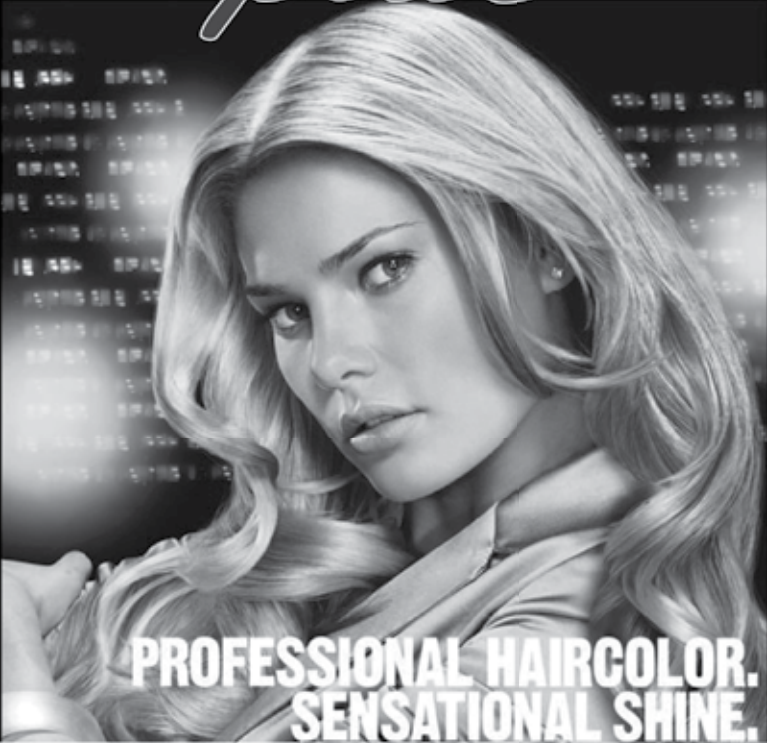
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GARDENING GUY

Protect your shrubs

In which an arctic blue willow goes under the knife

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

I've had a nice little dwarf willow for 15 years or more, and this summer I noticed it was getting to be bigger than I wanted it to be. But summers are busy and I didn't prune it. Fall came along; I did some traveling, and still didn't prune it. But last week I went outside on a nice sunny day and gave it a serious haircut.

The arctic blue willow is very slow growing — it's a variety with the final word 'nana' attached to its Latin name (*Salix purpurea* 'nana'), indicating that it is a shrub or tree that stays small. I had only pruned it once or twice in its lifetime, and it had gotten to be 6 feet tall. The branches had branched and re-branched so many times that they held snow like a woven basket. When we got an inch or two of snow the branches were doubled over and looked ready to break. I knew I had to take action before the heavy snows of winter came.

The first thing I did was to give the branches a good shake to rid them of snow, and lifted them back into their proper shape. It rebounded immediately. Then I looked for any broken or dead branches but saw none. This is a good healthy little tree.

Each pruning job is different. The Arctic blue willow tends, by its nature, to stay very compact. It has lots of handsome small leaves with a slightly bluish cast. The branches fork and divide, creating lots of very fine twigs near the tips of the branches. What I needed to do, in order to protect it from winter breakage, was to remove the finest branches, those near the tip of each branch.

Instead of just removing the tips of the branches, however, I followed fine branches back to bigger branches, and removed some of those bigger branches, thus taking off several fine branches with each cut. I staggered my cuts, much as a hairstylist might create a layered look with your hair. Some branches lost just a few inches; others were cut back by 2 feet.

Overall, I reduced the height of the plant from 6 feet to about 4 feet and made the interior of it open and airy. Come spring, the willow will grow new shoots at most places where it was cut. It may send out two to three shoots where one was cut off. So I will have my pruners ready to tune it up next fall if I need to.

Before you prune a tree or shrub in winter it's good to know when its season of bloom occurs. I grow that willow for its shape and foliage, not blossoms — there are small catkins in the spring, but those are barely noticeable. By pruning it hard, as I did, there will be no blooms next spring because I removed most or all of the buds. But the lack of blooms is of no importance to me.

If you have a tree or shrub that blooms nicely in the spring (such as forsythia, lilac or common ninebark) you may want to consider putting off pruning until after bloom time. However, if you notice that early ice and snow



Arctic blue willow after pruning. Henry Homeyer photo.

are bending the branches and weighting them down, some judicious pruning now can help the plant. If snow or ice does your pruning for you, the bark will tear, opening up sites where disease or insects can enter.

Late summer blooming shrubs can be pruned now with no loss of flowers next year. Plants like the common 'peegee' hydrangeas set flower buds on new growth, not growth that occurred the summer before. In fact, if you have not cut off this year's flower panicles (and some of their stems yet) from your peegee hydrangea, you should do so now. They will be weighted down by snow and may break.

Whenever you prune a tree or shrub you should remove any dead branches first. You can tell a dead branch from a live one in winter by using your thumbnail to scratch the surface of the bark. If you see green, it is alive; if it's brown, it's dead. With a little practice, you'll recognize dead branches on sight.

If you see two branches that are crossing or rubbing, get out your pruners. Rubbing branches wear off bark, opening wounds — so get rid of one (or both, if they are already damaged). Crossing branches may not be rubbing now, but they will as they get bigger or covered with snow.

Good questions to ask yourself when pruning are these: what is the potential of this branch? What will it be like in 5 years? A branch that travels through the center of a shrub has no potential — it will soon be rubbing against other branches. And it's always better to clean out messy branches when they are small.

Pruning can be functional: it minimizes damage and keeps trees and shrubs to manageable size. But pruning is also an art. You can sculpt your trees and shrubs so that they are works of art as you look out over your winter landscape. Have at it!

Henry Homeyer's website is www.Gardening-guy.com. He is the author of four gardening books.

PAINTED TURTLE at the Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Fri., Jan. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Participants will eat pizza and meet animals. Admission is \$15 per family, which includes pizza. Advanced registration required; Call 626-3474 or visit amoskeagfishways.org.

• **BIRD BANDING OPEN HOUSE** on Sat., Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) allows visitors to drop in anytime during the morning to learn about common birds that

are winter visitors, as well as why birds are banded. No charge. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

• **WINTER WILD WALKS** will be held Sat., Jan 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sun., Jan. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m., Sat., Jan 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Sun., Jan. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m.


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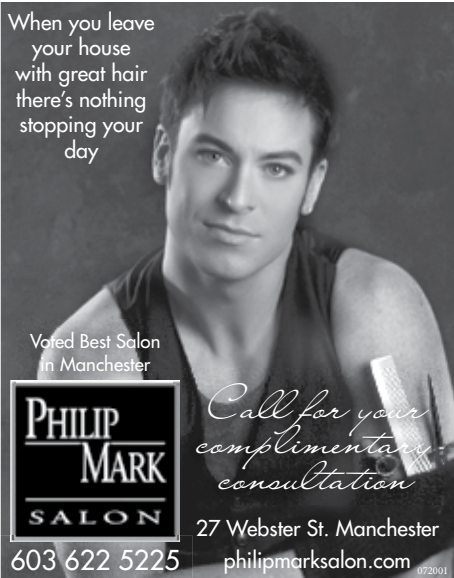
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at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness). Be prepared to snowshoe. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Costs \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. Visit www.nhnature.org.

• **WINTER BIRDING EXCURSION** at the Squam lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness) on Sun., Jan. 22, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., is being held to search for the hardy bird species that spend their winters along the N.H. and Mass. seacoast. Led by Science Center Executive Director Ian MacLeod. Through the day, visit Seabrook Harbor, the Salisbury Beach State Reservation and Plum Island to search for ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and more. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Admission is \$30/member or \$40/non-member. Visit www.nhnature.org.

• **WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS!** is a presentation for pre-school students brought by the Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Wed., Jan. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1 to 2 p.m. From the cardinal to the chickadee, lots of birds stay in New Hampshire during the winter time. Admission is \$5 per family, and advanced registration with payment is required. Call 626-3474 and visit amoskeagfishways.org.

CLUBS

Hobby

• **APPLE CLUB** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. This club will provide local user support for Apple products. User meetings feature product demos and discussions of technology as it relates to Apple computing. Visitors are welcome. Visit web.me.com/applepower.

• **GENEALOGY CLUB**, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, second Friday of each month, 1:30 p.m. Trade tips and techniques with others interested in family research and learn about genealogical resources located in the library. Visit www.rogerslibrary.org or call 886-6030 ext. 4522.

• **HOW I SEE IT** features photographer Edie Weiler, who will provide eclectic examples of film and digital photography, including tintypes and polaroid transfers through Jan. 23, 2012 at the Epsom Public Library (1606 Dover Road, Epsom). Call 736-9920.

• **MANCHESTER RICHELIEU CLUB** meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at the Chateau Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. If you speak French, enhance your enjoyment of the language by becoming a member of this club. Call Walter Parenteau at 964-6925.

• **MANCHESTER STAMP CLUB** meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Villa Crest Nursing Home, 1276 Hanover St., Manchester. Call Bob Dion at 625-5082.

• **NASHUA CAMERA CLUB** meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library. Each month there are three different topics chosen for competitions. Entries can be submitted either digitally or as prints no larger than 16"x20" (with mat) and no smaller than 8x10. Visitors and new members are always welcome. See www.nashuacameraclubnh.org or contact Dave Marden at 305-7036 or dmarden1@myfairpoint.net.

• **NASHUA SWIM & TENNIS CLUB** (140 Lock St., Nashua, 883-0153, www.nashuaswimandtennis.com) offers lessons and club tournaments in tennis.

• **NH FLYING TIGERS** radio

In the spotlight



Ski!

Just because there hasn't been much snow filling up your back yard doesn't mean the slopes are bare. Still haven't mastered New Hampshire's prime sport? Take a beginner class at one of the many mountains in the Lakes Region.

Cannon Mountain (Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway & Ski Area, 9 Franconia Notch State Park, Franconia) hosts a school for beginners of all ages. There are separate men's and women's programs for those interested. Children's programs are available for one to four days. Adult first-time package is \$67; children's packages (age 4 to 12) begin at \$72. Call 823-8800. Visit CannonMt.com.

Dexter's Inn Trails by Norsk (258 Stagecoach Road, Sunapee, 232-5571, DextersNH.com) offers a beginners package that combines a day pass for trails, rental and group lessons (typically held during weekends.) Cost is \$30. Private lessons are available by appointment.

Gunstock Mountain Resort (719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, 1-800-GUNSTOCK, Gunstock.com) one-day package starts at \$105, three-day package is \$200, offered to anyone 6 and older. Package includes two-hour group lessons each day, lift tickets, rental equipment and lessons throughout the day.

King Pine Ski Area (Purity Spring Resort, 1251 Eaton Road, East Madison, 373-3754, KingPine.com) Adults \$69 for alpine or snowboard, \$40 for Nordic. Juniors \$54 for alpine or snowboard, \$40 for Nordic.

Loon Mountain (60 Loon Mountain Road, Lincoln, 229-LOON, LoonMtn.com) has full- and half-day packages. Children as young as 3 can take part. Packages begin at \$90 for age 3 to 6, \$80 for ages 7 to 12, \$80 for ages 13 and older.

Ragged Mountain Resort (620 Ragged Mountain Road, Danbury, 1877-GO-SKI-RM, RaggedMountainResort.com) has "Guaranteed Learn to Ski or Ride" (\$59) and "To the Top" (\$100) programs.

Waterville Valley Resort (1 Ski Area Road, Waterville Valley, 1-800-GO-VALLEY, Waterville.com) offers learn-to-ski programs for ages 7 and older. A two-hour lesson is part of the package. Two- and three-day packages are also available. Pricing starts at \$75 for those 7 and older; see website for deals.

Wildcat Mountain (Route 16, Pinkham Notch, 1-888-754-9453, SkiWildcat.com) says adults are guaranteed to be able to make a run on a beginner area by the end of the first lesson, or the next lesson is free. Adult packages start at \$65, child \$69.

control flying club meets the last Wednesday of every month at the B-St. Flying Field, 1 B St., or Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 W. Broadway, Derry. Visit newhampshireflyingtigers.org.

• **PAREI ENERGY EXCHANGE** to discuss renewable energy. Visit plymouthenergy.org or call 536-5030.

• **PHOTOGRAPHERS FORUM** camera club meets at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua, on the first and third Monday of each month (except July and August). This informal club offers educational programs for all ability levels and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. Attend your first meeting free. Thereafter, dues are \$30 per year for individuals, \$50 for families; full-time students pay \$15. See www.photographersforum.org.


• **RADIO CLUB** Radio Club meets first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at First Church of Nashua, 1 Concord St., Nashua. Go to www.n1fd.org.

• **SOUTHERN NH FLYING EAGLES** club meets at their flying field in Merrimack throughout the summer. Meetings are open to the public. Visit snhflyingeagles.org.

• **SOCRATES CAFE** second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Starbucks, 1111 South Willow St., Manchester. Contact Marc Berthiaume at Socratescafe@comcast.net.

• **SOCRATES CAFE PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSION** meets the first Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Lorden Plaza, Milford. Group is open to the public. Call 889-0839.

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 Laura Levine (United States, born 1958), James Brown NYC, 1984, gelatin silver print, 16" x 20". Private collection. © Laura Levine. All rights reserved.

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EDUCATION

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• **COLLEGE COST & FUNDING OPTIONS** will address options for managing college costs, how to apply for financial aid and college funding options. Event takes place Thus., Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Manchester Library Auditorium (405 Pine St., Manchester).

Undergraduate & graduate classes/certificates

• **UNH MANCHESTER** (400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, www.manchester.unh.edu) offers a shortened semester in January, allowing college students who are home on break to catch up on college credits or fulfill course requirements by choosing from nearly 20 graduate and undergraduate courses that earn up to 4 credits in 3 weeks. The term begins Jan. 3 and ends Jan. 23. Courses include Image and Sound; Intro to Macroeconomic Principles; Modern Islamic Culture; Fast Food Nation; Law and Society; and the History of the NH Presidential Primary. Call the registration office at 641-4136.

• **CHESTER COLLEGE** (40 Chester St., Chester, 800-974-6372, www.chestercollege.edu) offers undergraduate degrees including in fine arts and in writing. The college offers continuing education and online classes.

• **DANIEL WEBSTER COLLEGE** (20 University Drive, Nashua, 577-6510, www.dwc.edu) offers undergraduate degrees, certificates and an MBA program as well as distance learning and other programs designed for non-traditional students.

• **FRANKLIN PIERCE LAW CENTER** (2 White St., Concord, 228-1541, www.piercelaw.edu) offers JDs as well as graduate programs and masters/JD programs in different areas of the law and diploma certificate programs.

• **FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY** (670 Commercial St., Center Tower, Second Floor, Suite 206, Manchester, 626-4972; 5 Chenell Drive, Concord, 228-1155; 73 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth, 433-2000; www.franklinpierce.edu) offers undergraduate programs at its campus in Rindge and graduate degrees and certificates at its other New Hampshire campuses including Concord, Manchester and Portsmouth. The school also offers various degrees and certificates through its online programs.

• **GRANITE STATE COLLEGE** (228-3000, granite.edu) has four full-service regional centers in Concord, Claremont, Conway, Rochester and five academic sites (hosting classes and academic services on an appointment basis) in Berlin, Lebanon, Littleton, Manchester, Portsmouth. GSC offers associate's and bachelor's degrees in arts and science, a post-baccalaureate teacher certification, online classes, foster-parent training and the Gregg Public Safety Academy.

• **HESSER COLLEGE** (410 Amherst St., Nashua, 800-987-5112; 3 Sundial Ave., Manchester, 800-987-5112; 25 Hall St., Suite 104, Concord, 800-987-5112) offers classes, course programs and degrees in business, criminal justice, health care and more.

• **MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (1066 Front St., Manchester, 668-6706, manchestercommunitycollege.edu) offers a variety of personal enrichment classes as well as coursework for certificates and degrees. See schedule and prices online.

In the spotlight



Learn to kick

No matter how big, strong or quick they may be, it's never a bad idea for women to brush up on self-defense. A free women's self-defense seminar at Bedford Martial Arts Academy (334 Route 101, Bedford) will demonstrate techniques and practical information on ways to protect yourself in the event of an attack. Instructors will provide hands-on training in simple strikes, blocks, joint manipulations and situational awareness techniques. They're moves that anyone can do. Call 626-9696, e-mail info@bedfordmartialartsacademy.com or visit bedfordmartialartsacademy.com.

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(33 Kearney Square, Lowell, Mass., 800-818-3434, middlesex.mass.edu) offers associate degree and certificate programs, online classes and corporate and community education and training.

• **NASHUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (505 Amherst St. in Nashua, 882-7022, www.nashuacc.edu) offers a variety of classes for professional and educational or personal enrichment. See website for schedule and prices. The school offers online courses, associate degree and certificate programs along with business and industry training.

• **NH INSTITUTE OF ART** (148 Concord St., Manchester, 623-0313, www.nhia.edu) offers art degrees and certificates, BFA and more; classes and workshops offered in drawing, painting, jewelry, photography, ceramics, interior design, etc.

• **NHTI** (31 College Drive, Concord, 271-6484, nhti.edu) offers associate and certificate programs. Programs are concentrated in business, computers, education, engineering technology, health, human services, justice/legal studies, and liberal and visual arts. There is also a continuing education program. There are also fully online classes with distance learning classes.

• **ORTHOPAEDIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM** Concord's Community College, St. Joseph Hospital, Concord Hospital and other private orthopedic offices are offering a certificate program in Orthopaedic Technology to educate students in the care of orthopaedic patients. A one-year intensive educational component and a six-week, 240-hour externship is required. This program is offered through NHTI in Concord. Call 271-7159 or visit www.nhti.edu.

• **PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY** (17 High St., Plymouth, 535-0000, plymouth.edu) has a variety of undergraduate, graduate, professional studies, community and online programs from its main campus. Its College of Graduate Studies programs take place at the Plymouth campus, at a graduate site at 2 Pillsbury St. in Concord and at off-campus locations including sites in Concord, Bedford, Durham, Exeter, Penacook and Portsmouth.

• **SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY** (2500 N. River Road, Manchester, 800-668-1249, snhu.edu) offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees, certificate programs at the graduate and undergraduate level and a continuing education program. SNHU has campuses in Brunswick, Maine, Nashua, Salem and Portsmouth as well as its main

Manchester location.

• **SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE** (500 Commercial St., Manchester, 666-5700, springfieldcollege.edu) offers bachelor's, master's and executive master's degrees in human services, with an emphasis on addictions studies and mental health counseling. Bachelor's degree concentrations include Addiction Studies and Early Childhood Education. Master's degree concentrations are available in Mental Health Counseling and Organizational Management and Leadership.

• **UMASS-LOWELL** (1 University Ave., Lowell, Mass., 978-934-4000, uml.edu) offers graduate and undergraduate degrees, certificate programs as well as a continuing education, online degrees and courses, and corporate training.

• **UNH MANCHESTER** (400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, www.manchester.unh.edu) offers undergraduate bachelor and associate degrees in arts and science and graduate degrees and certificates at the UNH Center for Graduate & Professional Studies (286 Commercial St., 4th floor, Manchester, 641-4313).

CRAFTS

Knitting

• **BEGINNERS AND BEYOND** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Classes are Tuesdays at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., 1 and 5:30 p.m., Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (alternating weeks), Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (alternating 1st and 3rd Saturdays). Six weekly two-hour sessions are \$60. Call 505-4432.

• **BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY** (16 Main St., Brookline, 673-3330, brookline.nh.us) has a knitting, crocheting and cross-stitch group that meets every Monday at 6 p.m. The group is informal and drop-ins are welcome.

• **BEGINNER CROCHETING** for kids age 8 to 12 at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Three weeks of crochet basics. Bring "N" crochet hook and yarn. Class size is limited. Sign up for classes on Tuesdays Jan. 17, 24 and 31 at 4 p.m. by calling 589-4610. Or, register at tinyurl.com/nplkid.

• **DROP-IN KNITTING CLUB** Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, every Tuesday, 3-4 p.m. Call 465-7721. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Compare patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips. Drop in, no sign-up required.

• **DROP-IN STITCHERS** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon, at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson. Work on knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching or any other needle-work project with company, and pass the time while sharing ideas and techniques for future work. Call 886-6030.

• **THE ELEGANT EWE** (71 S. Main St., Concord, 226-0066, elegantewe.com) offers a variety of knitting classes and workshops as well as classes in felting and spinning.

• **FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB** every Friday 6-10 p.m. at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Open project, no fee. Bring an existing project or start a new one. Call 505-4432.

• **HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** (31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksett-library.org) hosts a learning-to-knit circle every Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the adult room of the library. Tea and coffee are served.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY** (234 Main St., Salem, 898-7064, www.kelley-library.org) has a knitting circle on Mondays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. The weekly gatherings are open to Salem knitters of all skill levels. Members answer questions, offer tips and share techniques. No registration is required. Crocheters are welcome, too.

• **KNIT 1, CROCHET 2** drop-in stitch-fests held at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, the second and fourth Mondays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project and be inspired. Beginners will be able to get help selecting a project and the necessary supplies. There won't be formal instruction, but members of the group help each other. Tea is served.

• **KNIT WITS** meets at the Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., Chester, the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Work on your craft, chat with others, and share your knowledge. This group is open to all who like to sew, crochet, knit and/or stitch. For more information, contact the library at 887-3404.

• **KNITTING CLUB** every Tuesday at the Hollis Social Library, 3-4 p.m. in the library meeting room. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Have fun comparing patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips on stitches, sweaters and mittens. Drop in, no sign-up required.

• **KNITTING CLUB** every Friday, at 11 a.m., at West Manchester Library, 76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560. Both experienced and novice knitters are invited to attend. No registration required.

• **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY** 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) hosts a knitting group every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **NASHUA STITCH 'N BITCH** meets Mondays 7-10 p.m. at the café in Borders, 281 DW Hwy in Nashua. Drop-ins welcome. See kat.prettyposies.com/nashuasnb.

• **NEEDLES AND SHUTTLES** meets in The Fiber Studio, Foster Hill Road, Henniker. This informal group welcomes new and experienced knitters to share skills and conversation. Bring a knitting project. Call 428-7830.

• **NESMITH KNITTERS** meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Nesmith Library (8 Fellows Road, Windham, 432-7154, www.nesmith-

In the spotlight



Play flutes and oboes

Got a passion for woodwind tunes? Want to pick up some tips in music reading, flute playing or "horn blowing?" Check out the Woodwind Workshop Week Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St., Concord) from Monday, Jan. 16, to Thursday, Jan. 19. The free workshop welcomes those of all ages and musical abilities. Sessions include oboe reedmaking, hypnosis for peak performance, large ensemble reading and mixed woodwind choirs. This is the first of a few workshops that the Concord Community Music School will be holding this year. Be sure to also check out the Strings and Voice Workshops, which will take place the first two weeks in April. Visit www.ccmusicschool.org for times and dates. Call 228-1196.

library.org). All skills and ages welcome.

• **NEW ENGLAND FABRICS** (55 Ralston St., Keene, 352-8683, new-englandfabrics.com) has offered classes in sewing, knitting, quilting and more. Call for the current schedule.

• **NIGHT AT THE SPOTTED SHEEP** is a free social evening every Wed. 6:30-8:30 p.m. for knitters and crocheters to relax with a project and share with others at the Spotted Sheep Yarn Shoppe, 9 Church St., Goffstown, 660-1115, spottedsheepyarnshoppe.com. New crafters welcome. Free.

• **SOCKS ON A 12" CIRCULAR NEEDLE** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com) on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Call 505-4432.

• **ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL** in Nashua is looking for volunteers to help knit or crochet comfort shawls for patients who may be seriously ill, undergoing medical procedures, emotionally or physically traumatized, seeking hope and healing or grieving. The need for shawls is ongoing and frequently the supply becomes depleted. Contact the Spiritual Care Department at St. Joseph Hospital at 882-3000, ext. 67800. You will receive more information and a brochure with both knitting and crocheting instructions.

• **YARN AND FIBER COMPANY** (11 Manchester Road, Derry, 505-4432, www.yarnandfiber.com) offers classes in knitting, as well as Friday night knitting club, and classes focused on a single piece.

DANCE

• **Arthur Murray Dance Studio** 99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, learntodancetoday.com

• **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC** 250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com

• **Dance International Studio** 83 Hanover St., Manchester, 858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm

• **Kathy Blake Dance Studios** 3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst, 673-3978, kathyblakedancesstudios.com

• **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio** 352 S. Broadway, Salem, 870-9350, krystalballroom.com

• **Let's Dance Studio** 5 North Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancen.com

• **Mill-A-Round Dance Center** 250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com

• **N-Step Dance Center** 2626 Brown Ave Manchester, 03103

603-641-6787nstepdance.com

• **Paper Moon Dance Center** 515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com.

• **Queen City Ballroom** 21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com

• **Royal Palace Dance Studio** 167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com

• **Senior Activity Center** 70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155

• **Steppin' Out Dance Studio** 1201 Westford St., Lowell, 978-452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com

Folk Classes and Dance

• **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is \$13; purchase a card for \$72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com or call 224-5582.

• **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freesevers.com or call Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.

• **CIRCLE 9 RANCH** (30 Windymere Drive, Epsom, 736-9656, hosts a dance lesson every Saturday at 7 p.m. through August. See www.circle9ranch.com.

• **HAPPY TIME SQUARES** meets every Wednesday in the Community Room of the Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield St., Rochester. Members range from 8 to 80, and anyone interested in learning about Contemporary Square Dance is encouraged to attend. See www.happytimesquares.org.

• **MILL CITY CONTRA DANCE** at the Waumbec Mill, 250 Commercial St., Manchester, the third Friday of every month. A beginners' workshop takes place at 7:30 p.m., while the dance goes from 8 to 11 p.m. No partner necessary; all dances taught. Costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for students (under 12 free). See tinyurl.com/Mill-City-Contra.

• **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, begin-

HAPPY NEW YOU YEAR

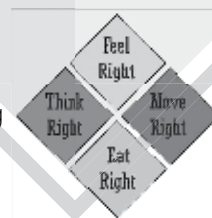
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Higher RPMs definitely are less efficient



Dear Tom and Ray:
A friend and I are having a running debate that I was hoping you two would be able to settle. We each recently bought ourselves pre-owned vehicles, and we both are members of the dying breed of drivers who love to drive cars with manual transmissions. Both cars are in stellar shape, both have fewer than 30,000 miles and have their original clutches, both have spotless Carfax history reports, and both were given the thumbs-up by our mutual mechanic when he inspected them. The disagreement is about

driving styles. My friend says that he gets better average fuel economy for his car when he drives at higher revs in a lower gear. I, on the other hand, believe that driving lower revs in a higher gear is more efficient. For example, he says that driving 60 mph in 4th gear at 3,000 rpm gets you better mileage than driving 60 mph in 5th gear at 2,500 rpm. What do you say? — Marie

RAY: While he's reading this first paragraph, Marie, we'll stall for time so you can double your wager. Because he's got his headlight firmly implanted in his taillight socket. He's nuts.

TOM: Completely. The higher the engine revs, the more fuel it uses. It's like walking. On the same terrain, the faster your legs move, the more calories you burn. And the same is true for your engine.

RAY: That's why, in chasing better fuel economy, carmakers have continually added more gears. In the 1950s and '60s, most cars had three-speed transmissions. The Ford Focus we drove a few weeks ago had a six-speed automatic. And the BMW X3 we drove last week had an eight-speed!

TOM: Why? Because the higher the gear, the fewer times the engine

has to turn for each rotation of the car wheels. And the slower the engine turns, the less fuel it uses.

RAY: If your friend is really thick-headed, Marie, and refuses to concede, suggest that the two of you take a bike ride. Find a couple of 10-speed bikes (which won't be easy, because even bikes now have 21, 24 and 27 speeds). Then find a nice, flat road to simulate a highway.

TOM: Then set the rules: You get to use all 10 of your gears, but he can only go up to 3rd gear on his bike. Then race a mile. While you're pedaling easily and your bike is moving quickly, he'll be pumping his legs furiously and struggling like crazy to keep up with you.

RAY: At the end of the race, when he's exhausted, sweating profusely and doubled over trying to catch his breath, ask him how much "fuel" he used keeping up with you, and then collect on your bet, Marie.

Dear Tom and Ray:
Between yesterday afternoon and this morning, I have had three flat tires. The tire that was flat yesterday had a screw in it, and the tires that are flat this morning have finishing nails. Other than the obvious ques-

tion of "Was this sabotage?" I have a question about repairing the tires. My question is, Are plugs reliable, or are patches or tire replacement recommended? I will add that I am living in Costa Rica, and tire puncturing is a known technique for robbing foreigners. Thus the idea of replacing tires only to have them repunctured is not appealing. But even less appealing is having to stop along a highway (they do not have shoulders) and being held up by the people who put the nails in the tire. — Bill

TOM: Well, my first thought was that you need run-flat tires. But I'm not sure that technology is widely available where you live. Run-flats require special equipment to mount them, plus they're expensive, require tire-pressure monitors and may not be as repairable as standard tires.

RAY: So, on second thought, you need a 55-gallon drum of pepper spray mounted on the roof.

TOM: Actually, plugs have been used since the days of the Roman chariots. OK, not that long, but they're well-established and effective. As long as the hole in the tire is not too big (and screw or nail holes are not too big), you can insert a plug and expect it to last for the remaining life of the

tire — which in your case sounds like about six hours.

RAY: But even better, a plug is something you can do yourself, Bill. You can go to any auto-parts store (try Manny, Mo and Carlos in Costa Rica), and buy yourself a plug kit.

TOM: It consists of a bunch of plugs, a reamer, which you use to make the hole the exact size of the plug, and a tool for inserting the plugs.

RAY: So you create the hole, then thread the plug into the insertion tool, and then you insert it and remove the tool. And voila! The repair is done and you're on your way.

TOM: So then what you need is a cylinder of compressed air that you can carry around in your trunk. Once you plug your tire, you can reinflate it by the side of the road, hand your wallet to the nice banditos who've been waiting patiently for you to fix the tire, and be on your way. Good luck, Bill.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? E-mail Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com. Copyright 2011 by Tom and Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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ners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$50, runs for eight weeks.

• **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.

• **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhgrizzlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.

• **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$8. Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.

• **NEW ENGLAND CONTRA DANCE** will be held Tues., Jan. 13, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Mayflower Grange/Londonderry Senior Center (535 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry). Family-friendly environment, and partner not necessary! Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for those 12 and under. Call 529-1586. Email weareampm@gsinet.net.

• **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nashuascd@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call Bill Schenck, 352-6968). Visit rsedsboston.org.

• **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cercle National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.

• **WORLD DANCE** on second and fourth Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford. All dances taught each night. Call 487-2732 or e-mail maryfloyd62@comcast.net.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
HOSPITALS & CLINICS

- **Catholic Medical Center**
100 McGregor St., Manchester, 626-2626, catholicmedicalcenter.org
- **Concord Hospital**
250 Pleasant St., Concord, 225-2711, concordhospital.org
- **Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic**
100 Hitchcock Way, Manchester, 695-2500, dartmouth-hitchcock.org
- **Elliot Hospital**
One Elliot Way, Manchester, 669-5300, elliithospital.org
- **Manchester Community Health Center**
145 Hollis Street., Manchester, 626-9500, mchc-nh.org
- **The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester**
401 Cypress St., Manchester, 668-4111, mhcgmn.org
- **NH Hospice and Palliative Care Organization**
125 Airport Road, Concord, 225-0900, nhhpco.org
- **Parkland Medical Center**
One Parkland Drive, Derry, 432-1500, parklandmedicalcenter.com
- **Southern N.H. Medical Center**

In the spotlight



Save coral reefs

“Crafty Critters of the Coral Reef” will be the topic at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center’s (2 Institute Drive, Concord) “Super Stellar Friday” on Friday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. Perrin Chick, education director of the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, will compare our local waters and critters to those Down Under. Learn about the animals that live in Australia’s Great Barrier Reef and how coral reefs are formed. The observatory will be open from 7 to 10 p.m., and there will be a free skywatch outside with the New Hampshire Astronomical Society giving personal telescope advice and assistance. Telescope viewing begins at 7 p.m. Call 271-7827, ext. 110.

In the spotlight



Loosen up

It’s the season of giving, of sharing, of long hours and short days — stress isn’t difficult to find this time of the year. But is it making you gain weight? Check out a presentation at the Concord Public Library (45 Green St.), “Is Stress Making Your Pants Tight,” on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Melissa Koerner helps identify major stressors in your life that are making you feel tired and gain weight. Call 230-3682.

8 Prospect St., Nashua, 577-2255, snhmc.org
• **St. Joseph Hospital**
172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-3168, stjosephhospital.com
• **Visiting Nurse Association**
33 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 622-3781, manchestervna.org

PREGNANCY

• **Bedford Commons OB-GYN, P.A.**
Bedford Commons, 201 Riverway Place, in Bedford, 668-4646
Overlook Medical Park, 6 Tsienneto Road in Derry, 668-4646; bcog.com
• **The Birth Cottage**
4 Prospect St. in Milford, 673-6010
374 Union St. #113 in Peterborough, 924-9883; birthcottage.com
• **La Leche League**
llusa.org/menh
• **Nini Bambini**
166 South River Road in Bedford, 666-6464, ninibambini.com

OTHER

• **American Red Cross**
1800 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4307, redcrossmanchester.org
28 Concord St., Nashua, 889-6664, nashua.redcross.org
2 Maitland St., Concord, 225-6697, concord-redcross.org
• **The Children’s Place and Parent Education Center**
27 Burns Ave. in Concord, 224-9920, thechildrensplacenh.org
• **The Compassionate Friends**
Greater Manchester Chapter tcfmanchester.org
• **Daniel Webster College**
20 University Dr., Nashua, 577-6625, dwc.edu
• **Easter Seals NH**
555 Auburn St., 623-8863, nh.easterseals.com
• **Full Spectrum Wellness LLC**
55 South Commercial St., Manchester, 296-0830, fullspectrumwellness.com

• **Greater Manchester YMCA**
30 Mechanic St., 623-3558, gmfyymca.org
• **Healing Hands Chiropractic**
25 Nashua Rd Suite F2 in Londonderry, 434-3456
501 Riverway Place in Bedford, 647-0600; healinghandsnh.com
• **The Holistic Self Care Center**
12 Murphy Drive in Nashua, 883-1490, thehsccenter.com
• **Manchester Health Department Community Health Division**
1528 Elm St. in Manchester, 624-6466, manchesternh.gov
• **Nashua Division of Public Health & Community Services**
18 Mulberry St. in Nashua, 589-4560, gonashua.com
• **Nashua Senior Center**
70 Temple St. In Nashua, 889-6155, nashuaseniorcenter.org
• **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)**
1-800-242-6264, naminh.org
• **Naturopathic Clinic of Concord**
46 S. Main St. in Concord, 228-0407, concordnaturopathic.com
• **Pastoral Counseling Services**
2013 Elm St., Manchester, 627-2702, pcs-nh.org
• **William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center**
151 Douglas St. in Manchester, 624-6536, manchesternh.gov
• **Women Supporting Women**
111 Water St., Exeter, 772-0799, wswcenter.com
• **YWCA**
72 Concord St., Manchester, 625-5785, ywca.org

Workshops, seminars & events

• **FREE WOMEN’S SELF-DEFENSE SEMINAR** at Bedford Martial Arts Academy (334 Route 101 Bedford, N.H.) on Tues., Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. Seminar will demonstrate real-life techniques and practical information on various ways to protect themselves in the event of an attack. Hands-on training of simple strikes, blocks, joint manipulations and



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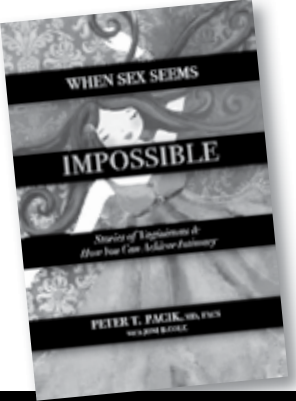
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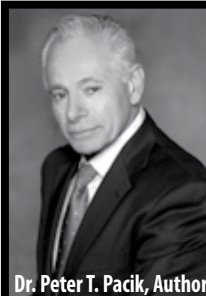
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situational awareness techniques. Call 626-9696 or email info@bedfordmartialartsacademy.com.

• **WACKY SONGS THAT MADE US LAUGH** is a program brought by the Friends of the Merrimack Library in the Merrimack Library's Klumpp meeting room (470 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack) on Wed., Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. Calvin Knickerboxer will lead the discussion on how popular songs with humorous lyrics have kept us laughing since colonial times, in addition to providing excerpts from hilarious songs to help chart the evolution of musical humor. Free and open to the public. Register online at www.merrimack.lib.nh.us or by phone at 424-5021.

• **TUCKER FREE LIBRARY** (31 Western Avenue Henniker) will host Henniker resident and new author Mary Macklin who will help plot fitness goals, so that behavioral changes and resolutions will last. Event takes place Tues., Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Call 428-3471.

• **THE GLASS IS HALF FULL** offers "positive thinking for a positive you" at the Hooksett Library (31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett) on Mon., Jan. 23, at 10 a.m. Find out how positive thinking brings inner peace, improved relationships, better health and satisfaction in daily affairs. Presented by representative from Concord Regional Visiting Nurse Association. Register at hooksettlibrary.org.

• **DINNER WITH THE DOCS** St. Joseph Hospital, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-5300, is offering seven "Dinner with the Docs" classes this fall. Each class is \$10 and includes dinner. Classes run from 6 to 8 p.m. To register, call 595-3168 or go to www.stjosephhospital.com/classes.

• **GROWING OLDER, STAYING WELL** program will discuss 10 most common health problems and what you can do about them on Mon., March 26, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., at Martin's Point Health Care, 16 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth. Free event, registration required. Visit www.martinspoint.org

Exercise/Fitness

• **CARDIO BOOTCAMP** RHT Martial Arts, 68 North Stark Hwy., Weare, 529-5425, www.nhkick.com.

• **DYNAMIC STRENGTH AND FITNESS** 115 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, 882-2348. Visit www.DynamicSC.com.

• **FIT TO BE TONED** (200 Elm St., Manchester, 505-0042, www.fit-to-betoned.com) offers a boot camp class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 a.m. It incorporates kickboxing into a fitness routine including core training, squats, lunges and leg conditioning.

• **GET FIT NH BOOT CAMP** has two studios, 167 New Orchard Road, Epsom and 287 S. Main St., Concord. Offers classes Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays, including ladies-only classes. Sessions run for four consecutive weeks. To receive a free two-week tryout, e-mail getfitnh@gmail.com or call 344-2651 to reserve your spot, as space is limited. Visit www.getfitnhbootcamp.com.

• **GENTLE NIA** The Holistic Self Care Center, 12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, Mondays from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Nia is a sensory-based movement lifestyle that leads to health, wellness and fitness and draws from disciplines of the martial arts, dance arts and healing arts. It empowers people of all shapes and sizes by connecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit. To sign up, call 883-1490, e-mail [## In the spotlight](mailto:info@thehsccen-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)



Figure out your cell phone

Got a phone you don't know how to use? Or looking to get a phone that you might not know how to use? Try them out or get some tips at the U.S. Cellular Free Device Workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the U.S. Cellular retail store at 946 South Willow St., Manchester, 622-1033. Associates will answer questions and demonstrate common features such as e-mail access, Web browsing, calendar synchronization, browsing for apps and determining how devices can be personalized. The workshop is open to old and new smartphone and tablet owners, as well as those interested in upgrading. All smartphone accessories will be 25 percent off. Call 436-2347.

In the spotlight



Make a rocket

Got a rocketeer at home? Sign them up now for a rocket-making workshop at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com). Kids can make their own 12" rocket under the guidance of firefighter Phil Chouinard, who is highly experienced in the art of rocketry. The event takes place Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. Participation in this workshop can be applied to a Boy Scout of America Space Exploration Merit Badge. For ages 8 to adult, \$25 per person. Call 271-7827, ext. 110.

ter.com, or go to www.thehsccenter.com.

• **HULA HOOPS** fitness classes with Nicole Vincent. E-mail flashbackhoops@comcast.net or go to www.flashbackhoops.com.

• **JAZZERCISE** at the Jazzercise Fitness Center at 259 Hanover St. in Manchester, 624-9122, manchjazz.com, including body sculpting classes, low-impact/high-intensity classes and more. Childcare is available at 9:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on weekdays.

• **JAZZERCISE** the Southern NH Jazzercise at 28 Lowell Road, Hudson, offers 33 weekly classes in Jazzercise and body sculpting. Contact Cindy Robinson at 880-0887 or cindyjazz1@comcast.net. For other locations, go to jazzercise.com or call 800-FIT-IS-IT.

• **NLP ELITE ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** Next Level Performance (31 South Commercial St., Manchester, www.nlp-speed.com) Offers classes strength, speed, agility, flexibility and injury prevention for athletes ages 11 and up on Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Fri. Call 627-7500.

• **NLP FITNESS BOOTCAMP** Next Level Performance (31 South Commercial St, Manchester, nlpfit-camp.com) specific fitness instruction, nutritional coaching and training for improved quality of life. Thirty classes a week. Call 627-7500 for class times and dates.

• **OUTDOOR FITNESS BOOT CAMP** (www.fitnessonwheels.com, 234-9669) Fitness on Wheels at the Goddard School, 12 Tsienneto Road, Derry. E-mail tricia@fitnessonwheels.com for session dates and times.

• **ON THE MOVE FITNESS & CONDITIONING** (289-3088, onthemovefit.net) offers an Extreme Fitness Boot Camp, a Women's Fitness Boot Camp, Boot Camp Basic, and Team Fitness Boot Camp.

• **PERFECTFIT** (perfectfitonline.

com, 641-8297) fitness consultant and personal fitness trainer Dave Soucy offers small group classes featuring circuit training with full-body movements.

• **PILATES MAT** at Yoga & More (505 W. Hollis St. Suite 106 Nashua, 889-1121, yogaandmorenh.com) on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Learn the fundamentals of the Pilates technique as taught by founder Joseph Pilates. Drop-in fee is \$15.

• **CONCORD PILATES** (2 Pillsbury St., Ste #302, Concord, 369-0550, www.ConcordPilates.com) Classes are Monday at 5 p.m., Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday at 9 a.m., Thursday at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday at 10 a.m. First week costs \$20.

• **PILATES** by Deerfield Parks and Rec., Studio 59 at the George B. White Bldg., 8 Raymond Road, on Wed. and Fri. at 10 a.m. Visit townofdeerfieldnh.com or e-mail dflparks@townofdeerfield.com or call 463-8811 ext. 305.

• **PILATES** Martial Arts, 68 North Stark Hwy. in Weare. Call 529-5425.

• **PILATES** NH and Yoga, 76 Route 101A, Amherst. Classes will be held Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. and Mondays 8:15-9:15 a.m. To register call 562-7525.

• **RTH MARTIAL ARTS AND WELLNESS**, 68 North Stark, Hwy., Weare, 529-5425, offers health and wellness classes including zumba, yoga, pilates, yang tai chi chuan and more. Go to www.nhkick.com.

• **STRAFFORD COUNTY YMCA** fitness classes including kickboxing, cardio combo, and conditioning combo, at the Strafford County YMCA located at 63 Lowell St., Rochester. Contact Brent Diesel at 332-7334 or bdiesel@gmfmymca.org.

• **TRADITIONAL NIA** The Holistic Self Care Center, 12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. Nia is a sensory-based movement lifestyle that leads to health,

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

No snow? No problem.

You can still get your kids (and yourself) on the ice

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

With the weather so warm lately, it's a good thing we live in the age of ice rinks. Kids and adults can refine their stick and puck skills and practice their double-toe-loops at local skate arenas.

The **Douglas N. Everett Arena** (15 Loudon Road, Concord) will offer public skating Sunday afternoons from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Beginners can learn to skate through the Concord Parks and Recreation Department, which will hold Session 2 lessons at the Everett Arena from Saturday, Jan. 7, through Saturday, Feb. 11. The department offers beginner and intermediate lessons: basic beginner is for those ages 4 and up who have never skated before; beginner is for those who can stand up and skate forward; and intermediate is for skaters who have taken lessons and who can skate forward, backward and cross-cut.

The Concord Rec classes are filling up quickly; registration is accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Register online or at the White Park office (1 White St., Concord) in person. (Do not register at the arena itself.) Children ages 3 to 6 are required to wear helmets, and only single-blade skates are allowed. The six-week lessons cost \$71 for residents and \$81 for non-residents. Visit www.onconcord.com/recreation. Look under "sports." Admission is \$5 and free for children 3 and under. Ice skate rentals are available for \$4. Call 225-8690.

The **Tri-Town Ice Arena** in Hooksett (311 West River Road) will also be hosting public skating sessions, stick & puck practices, learn-to-skate lessons and figure skating sessions in the coming year. Public skating and skating lessons are offered all year long. Little skating fanatics might also enjoy a skating birthday party at the Tri-Town Arena. Visit www.tri-townicearena.com for specific times and dates, or call 485-1100.

In Manchester, the **John F. Kennedy Coliseum** (303 Beech St., Manchester) will be hosting public skating programs Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. and select days during the week through March. Public skating is a mere \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and senior citizens. Visit www.manchesternh.gov/website/Departments/ParksandRecreation.

The **Icenter** (60 Lowell Road, Salem) provides public skating every Sunday from 12:40 to 2 p.m. and at various times on Saturday. Call 893-4448 or visit www.the-icenter.com for times and dates. Public skating costs \$6 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, \$5 for rentals and \$2 for aid/walker rentals.

The **Magic Blades Figure Skating Club of Tilton** is holding a free skate on Monday, Jan. 2, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Tilton School Ice Aren (30 School St., Tilton). You bring the skates,



The New Hampton School hockey players will offer free lessons in January.

they'll bring snacks. The club will start its next session of lessons for all ages Jan. 9 (which will run through Feb. 13). Tuition costs \$75 for the first skater, \$65 for other skaters in the family. See magicblades.org.

For skaters on the seacoast, the **Dover Arena** (110 Portland Ave.) offers recreational skating and Learn to Skate sessions. Dover Learn to Skate programs take place Wednesdays, Jan. 11 through Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to 9:40 a.m., and Wednesdays, Feb. 22 through March 28, from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. It costs \$90 to enroll tykes in these six-week lessons. Call 516-6060.

The **New Hampton School Lindsay Ice Arena** (70 Main St., New Hampton) will hold a free Learn to Skate and Open Skate program this winter, on Sundays, Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. The program is open to all ages and will be supervised by experienced NHS faculty members. No sticks and pucks are allowed, and all participants must wear helmets. Students at the New Hampton School, coaches and skaters from both the boys' and girls' hockey teams will help newcomers learn to skate.

"It's wonderful for our kids because they're helping out their local community — some of our students are from the area, but many of our students are from all over the country," said Will McCulloch, the director of communications at New Hampton. "It's also great for the younger kids learning; they can come to the hockey games after their lessons and see the people who taught them how to skate play, as it doesn't cost anything to attend one of our hockey games, either."

The public skating session is geared toward kids between 4 and 14, and parents can come and skate around with their children, as well. Milk crates and chairs will be available for beginning skaters. Pre-registration is suggested; call 677-3445.

wellness and fitness and draws from disciplines of the martial arts, dance arts and healing arts. It empowers people of all shapes and sizes by connecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit. To sign up, call 883-1490, e-mail info@thehscenter.com, or go to www.thehscenter.com.

• **TRAINING EFFECTS NH** (434-9281, trainingeffectsnh.com) in

Londonderry offers group boot camp program to promote cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, flexibility and balance. Meets Friday at 9:30 a.m.

• **WELLNESS CENTER CLASS-ES** WellSpace New Hampshire, 633 Maple St., Hopkinton. Offering fitness classes of all levels, tai chi for arthritis and qigong, strength train-

ing, boot camp, yoga, personal training, mindful meditation, children's dance classes and nutrition & weight loss programs. Call Jane Sullivan-Durand MD, founder of WellSpace NH at 746-4626 or SmiSarasvati@yahoo.com.

• **YMCA** of Greater Manchester offers a wide variety of fitness classes. Visit www.manchesterymca.org

or call 623-3558.

• **ZUMBA** for people 18 and older will be offered through Concord Parks & Recreation. Music, dancing and fun. Class runs Thursdays, Jan. 5 to Feb. 9, from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. at the West St. Ward House (41 West Street, Concord).

• **ZUMBA** Mon. and Thurs. at 5:30 p.m., Tues. at 5:45 p.m., first class free, at Royal Palace Dance Studio, 167 Elm St., Manchester, RoyalPalaceDance.com.

• **ZUMBA** McConnell Center Gym in Dover offers classes every Wed., from 7 to 8 p.m., Sat., from 9 to 10 a.m. and Sun., from 10 to 11 a.m. A six-week session costs \$30 for Dover residents (\$35 for non-residents). Drop-ins are also welcome. New classes start every six to seven weeks. Zumba is a fun and easy dance-fitness program designed for people of all ages and levels of fitness. Contact the Dover Rec Center at 516-6401 or the instructor, Diana Post, at 969-6413.

• **ZUMBA** Kaleo Coffee, 83 Main St., Dover, 343-4139, every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Diana Post is the instructor for this weekly class. Drop-in fee is \$5 per person.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bake/yard sales/fundraisers/auctions

• **NEW YEARS DAY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** will be held Sun., Jan. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Bow Community Building (2 Bow Center Road). The buffet, held by the Bow Community Men's Club, will include eggs, bacon, sausage, briskets and gravy, pancakes, french toast, fruit salad, toast, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and milk. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$4 for children 12 and younger. Family cost is \$25. Tickets available at door; proceeds raised are returned to community.

• **FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY MEALS** during the holidays in Derry, N.H. Dinner is provided at the Church of Transfiguration (1 Hood Rd., Derry) Sun., Jan 1, and Sun., Jan. 15. Supper at First Parish Church (47 East Derry Rd., Derry) will be served Fri., Dec. 30, and Fri., Jan. 27. Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue (1-1/2 Hood Rd., Derry) on the third Sunday of every month. The next will be Sun., Jan. 15.

Pets

• **ADOPT A CAT** Animal Rescue League of NH in Bedford is at capacity. Shelter is open Tues. and Thurs. 1-7 p.m.; Fri., Sat. & Sun. noon -5 p.m. Call 472-DOGS.

• **ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE SEEKING VET CARE DONATIONS** Checks can be mailed to ARL-NH, 545 Route 101, Bedford, NH 03110. Donations can be made at www.rescueleague.org. Be sure to include "veterinary care" in the designation line. Call Robin Ahlgren at 472-5714.

• **ANIMAL WELFARE** seminar for pre-teens and adults, free of charge. To schedule, call 472-5788.

• **CANINE MESSAGE** Learn about a dog's total wellness from Tracey Brown, who works primarily through Baker Wells Animal Hospital, Hampton Falls/Seabrook, 978-337-7965, paws-in-hand.com.

• **DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES** at Greater Derry Humane Society, Salty Lane Farm, Lane Road, Derry, on Monday evenings. Cost is \$75 for 6-week sessions. Registration required, and dog must be current with all inoculations. Owner must accompany pets. Learn grooming, body language, behavioral modification,

In the spotlight



Serve in honor of MLK

The Greater Concord Interfaith Council calls to "make it a day on, not a day off." The MLK Service Day, which will take place on Monday, Jan. 16, is a collaboration intended to gather people to pay a day of community service. The day starts with a service rally at 9 a.m. at St. John's (at 72 South Main St.), and the service itself will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each congregation involved will find its own community service for the day. Those who would like to take part in a project can contact Pastor John at 224-0277; however, pre-registration is not required. At 7 p.m., *At the River I Stand* will play at the Red River Theatres (11 S Main St. in Concord), followed by a discussion. Call 224-4600.

In the spotlight



Party on

Why stop with New Year's Eve? Get tickets to the New Year's Day Ballroom Dance Party at the Queen City Ballroom (21 Dow St, Manchester) on Sunday, Jan. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. Experience is not necessary, as singles and couples of all ages and dance levels welcome. Fruit, cheese, mini quiches and a decadent dessert buffet will be offered. Admission is \$15 per person if purchased before Dec. 31, \$20 per person if purchased at the door. Call 622-1500, e-mail QnCtyBalm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

discipline, nutrition, and more. Call 432-1512 or visit www.derryhumane-society.com to find out more.

• **FELINE ADOPTIONS** with Animal Allies, 476 Front St., Manchester, on Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., and Saturdays, 11-2 p.m.

• **FREE SPAY/NEUTER FOR PIT BULLS** at the Manchester Animal Shelter (490 Dunbarton Road, Manchester, 628-3544, manchestersanimalshelter.org). The Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter is sponsoring "Fix-a-Pit" the city's first-ever spay/neuter program free of cost to pit bull owners who live in Manchester. Fix-a-Pit will provide city pit bull owners with a free spay/neuter, rabies vaccine and a microchip. Call 628-3544.

• **HORSE/FARM ANIMAL CLINICS** at Gelinass Farm, 471 4th Range Road, Pembroke, 225-7024, www.gelinassfarm.com. Maneuvering obstacles, cow work, ranch shows, and horsemanship, as well as youth farm camps. Call or visit the website for a schedule.

• **LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER** is available through the Greater Derry Humane Society. For more information, call 434-1512.

• **PET FIRST AID** classes from NH Gateway Chapter of Red Cross (28 Concord St. in Nashua, 889-6664, nashua.redcross.org). Classes include dog or cat first aid.

• **SPCA PETCO DAY** on the third Saturday of each month, at Petco, 34 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 225-7355. Visit with Concord-Merrimack County SPCA volunteers and meet adoptable pets.

• **VETERINARY EMERGENCY CENTER OF MANCHESTER** New location: 336 Abby Road, Manchester. Call 666-6677.

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• **BACA** The New Hampshire Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse

has meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in Tilton. Visit www.bacausa.com and e-mail info@bacanh.com or call 888-420-2678.

• **SOLID ROCK RIDERS** NH chapter monthly meetings held in Nashua. E-mail solidrockridersnh@yahoo.com.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

• **Canterbury Shaker Village** 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, 783-9511, shakers.org

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** 2 Institute Dr., Concord, starhop.com, 271-7831

• **Currier Museum of Art** 150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org

• **Laconia Historical & Museum Society** in the Laconia Public Library at 695 Main St. in Laconia, 527-1278, laconiahistorical.org

• **Langer Place** 55 South Commercial St., Manchester, 626-4388, langerplace.com

• **Lee Scouting Museum & Library** 571 Holt Ave. in Manchester, 669-8919, scoutingmuseum.org

• **Manchester City Hall** One City Hall Plaza, off Hanover St. in Manchester, 624-6455

• **Millyard Museum/Manchester Historic Association** 200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

• **New England Synthesizer Museum** 6 Vernon St., Nashua, 881-8587, synthmuseum.com

• **New Hampshire Aviation Museum** South Perimeter Road, Manchester, 669-4820, nhahs.org

• **New Hampshire Snowmobile Association Museum**

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Beaver Brook State Park Museum
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• **Museum of N.H. Natural History**
 6 Eagle Square in Concord, 228-6688, nhhistory.org

• **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
 18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org

• **Seacoast African American Cultural Center**
 135 Daniel St. in Portsmouth, 430-6027, saacc-nh.org

• **SEE Science Center**
 200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org

• **Speare Museum**
 5 Abbott St., Nashua, 883-0015, nashuahistoricalociety.org

• **U.S. Marconi Museum**
 14 N. Amherst St. in Bedford, 472-8312, marconiusa.org

Exhibits

• **"ALONG THE SILK ROAD"** Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, through early January. The exhibit focuses on the Silk Road, the great trade route that stretched from China to Turkey and into Europe. The exhibition emphasizes "the Stans," formerly republics of the Soviet Union and now independent countries, as well as Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. Programs will focus not only on the historical importance of the Silk Road and the great cultures that grew up along it but on the significance of this region today. See www.mariposamuseum.org.

• **"DAVID MCPHAIL: LOOKING BACK...AND BEYOND"** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, through December. Visitors to Gallery 6 will get a glimpse into McPhail's creative process. Children and adults will enjoy meeting Henry Bear, Waddles the Raccoon, Emily Duck, Budgie & Boo and the characters from McPhail's newest book, Abandoned Lighthouse. Visitors can view the exhibit during regular business hours, and no admission fee is required to visit only the gallery.

• **OBJECTS THAT DEFINE NEW HAMPSHIRE: PART II** at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St., Concord, through July 7, 2012. For nearly two centuries the NH Historical Society has collected and preserved thousands of objects, books, documents and photographs about the state's past, and the treasure trove of items in "Icons of History" reflects the breadth and depth of these collections. The exhibit is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free. The first part of the exhibit is on display at the NH Historical Society's museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord, through Dec. 31. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **"SEASONS OF CHANGE"** SEE Science Center, 50 Dow St., Manchester, 669-0400, through Jan. 8, 2012. This interactive exhibit provides visitors an opportunity to see how climate affects New England's seasonal traditions. Using graphics, multi-media displays, artifacts and interactive components, the exhibit addresses many areas of New England life including agriculture, forestry, fishing and recreation. Visitors of all ages are introduced to the challenges faced by farmers, fishermen and others. Visitors can engage in testing how ocean acidity levels affect sea-life, observing how CO2 concentrations affect invasive

In the spotlight



It's like old-school YouTube

The biggest holiday of the year is over, days are finally getting longer, and a new year is upon us. Relax, laugh a little, and check out this workshop: "Wacky Songs that Make Us Laugh" is a program brought by the Friends of the Merrimack Library that will take place in the Merrimack Library's Klumpp meeting room (470 DW Highway, Merrimack) on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. Calvin Knickerboxer will lead the discussion on how popular songs with humorous lyrics have kept us laughing since colonial times, and he'll provide excerpts from hilarious songs to help chart the evolution of musical humor. This event is free and open to the public. Register online at www.merrimack.lib.nh.us or by phone at 424-5021.

In the spotlight



Have family fun

Spend time with your family and learn how to live a healthy lifestyle with them. Don't miss out on a free "Family Fun Night" at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org) on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Activities related to health and fitness are planned for the event. The Children's Museum is also kicking off a new program called the "Step it Up Challenge" in order to keep families active during the winter time — families and friends are invited to work together to team up and collectively take 1 million steps by May 5. First Tee New Hampshire will offer an indoor golf challenge, and New Hampshire Fisher Cats mascot Fungo will be in the house.

species and more. Visit www.seesciencecenter.org.

• **SUMMERING IN RYE: OVER A CENTURY BY THE SEA** Seacoast Science Center, 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, through Dec. 31. The exhibit chronicles the golden age of Rye's Victorian resort era of the mid-1800s to the 1960s. The images in this exhibition showcase the accommodations along the shores of Rye and the activities vacationers enjoyed during their stay.

• **A TREE'S MANY BRANCHES: THE LEGACY OF LACONIA'S JEWETT FAMILY** Laconia Public Library, 695 Main St., Laconia, 524-4775, through December. This exhibit, presented by the Laconia Historical Society, accompanies the recent publication of The Day Book of Jeremiah Smith Jewett. This exhibit is a tribute to the family and will feature items from LHMS' large Jewett Collection. Go to www.LaconiaHistorical.org.

• **Friends of Stark Park** North River Road, Manchester, 645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org

• **Londonderry Trailways** PO Box 389, Londonderry, londonderrytrails.org

• **Manchester Historic Association** 129 Amherst St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

• **Massabesic Audubon Center** 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org

• **McLane Center** 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org

• **Peabody Mill** Environmental Center 66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org

• **Seacoast Science Center** 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org

• **Society for the Protection of NH Forests** 224-9945, spnhf.org

Animals/insects/plants

• **PIZZA PARTY WITH THE PAINTED TURTLE** at the Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Fri., Jan. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Participants will eat pizza and meet animals. Admission is \$15 per family, which includes pizza. Advanced registration required; Call 626-3474 or visit amoskeagfishways.org.

• **CRAFTY CRITTERS OF THE CORAL REEF** will be featured as the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center's (2 Institute Drive, Concord) "Super Stellar Friday" on Fri., Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. Hear from Perrin Chick, Education Director of the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH, as he compares our local waters and critters to those down under. Learn

NATURE & GARDENING

• **Amoskeag Fishways** 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org

• **Beaver Brook Association** 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org

• **Charmingfare Farm** Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visithethefarm.com

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com

• **Educational Farm at Joppa Hill** 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org

about the animals that live in Australia's Great Barrier Reef and how coral reefs are formed. The observatory will be open from 7 to 10 p.m., at which there will be a free sky-watch outside with the New Hampshire Astronomical Society, who will give personal telescope advice and assistance. Telescope viewing begins at 7 p.m. Call 271-7827, ext. 110.

Hiking, hikes & walks

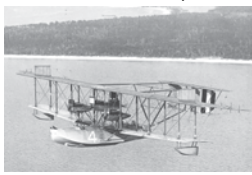
• **FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE** on Sat., Jan. 7, and Sat., Feb. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) for those who can walk for up to two hours at a moderate to moderately slow pace. Break out into the bright white world with a full moon in the winter night. Dress in layers. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes snowshoes or crampons. Call 465-7787 to register.

• **MLK DAY SNOWSHOE HIKE** at the Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) will take place on Mon., Jan. 16, from 10 to noon. Explore Wildlife Pond on Snowshoes. Cost is \$10 per person, including snowshoes and hot cocoa. Must be able to snowshoe for two hours on rolling terrain. Call 465-7787.

• **WINTER WILD WALKS** will be held Sat., Jan. 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sun., Jan. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m., Sat., Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Sun., Jan. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness). Be prepared to snowshoe. Register by calling 968-7194 or emailing info@nhnature.org. Costs \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. Visit www.nhnature.org.

• **FRIDAY FITNESS HIKES** at the Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) is conducted at a

In the spotlight



Celebrate flight

It's easy to forget that not too long ago flying across the Atlantic Ocean was an extraordinary feat. The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire will celebrate that feat at a monthly lecture series open to the public, part of its "Second Saturday at the Museum" series. The series will begin Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Vincent Devino Classroom at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry) from 11 a.m. to noon. The first event, hosted by NHAHS member Davis "JD" Clark, will include an audiovisual Powerpoint presentation titled "The Saga of the Curtiss NC-4," telling the story of the aerial crossing of the Atlantic by air in 1919. All NHAHS Second Saturday programs are included as part of an admission fee to the museum; members get in free. Visit nhahs.org or facebook.com/nhahs.

moderately fast pace from 9 to 11 a.m. every Fri. through April 2012. Hikes meet at different locations to familiarize hikers with different trails on and off Beaver Brook property. Call 465-7787. Snowshoes are provided when conditions are appropriate. Cost is \$50 to register for the season.

• **MONDAY FITNESS HIKES** at the Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) is conducted at a moderate pace from 9 to 11 a.m. every Mon. through April 2012. Hikes meet at different locations to familiarize hikers with different trails on and off Beaver Brook property. Call 465-7787. Snowshoes are provided when conditions are appropriate. Cost is \$50 to register for the season.

• **NATURE WALKS** Join the NH Audubon's Nashaway Chapter for morning adventure walks at

Ponemah Bog in Amherst. Bring binoculars and bug spray, and wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. Free and open to the public. The entrance to the bog is on Rhodora Drive, off Stearns Road, which runs between Boston Post Road and Route 122, just north of Route 101A in Amherst. For questions, contact Jack Gleason 673-3177 or e-mail jgleason10@netzero.net. For information about the bog, visit www.nhaudubon.org/sanctuary_amhe.php.

Outdoors

• **INTRODUCTION TO FLY TYING** at the Manchester Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) on Sat., Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Winchell Room. NH Fishing Guide Jim Norton and certi-

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Tuesday, Jan. 10

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COMMANDER CODY



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TECHIE

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Even nerds leave their houses these days

By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com



It's been a good year for gadgetry. Even though our toys are getting about as small as they can while still being useful to our giant, meaty hands, they just keep getting more powerful.

Whatever can't be packed into a pocket-sized gizmo is offloaded to The Cloud, that mythical place somewhere between the Internets and To Be Determined.

What have we seen really take off in 2011?

• **Location-based apps:** In January, I posted a future product called Haful Glasses, which immersed you in a social network with 3-D sunglasses and connected you with other users that were near you in the real world. Turns out there really are apps like that now — without the fancy glasses, anyway.

Grindr is described by its makers as "the largest all male location-based mobile network tool for Android, iPhone, iPod touch, iPad and BlackBerry." Wikipedia calls it a "geosocial networking application." Trying to remember the name of it, I Googled "gay hookup app." The same company launched Blendr earlier this year, promoting it on its website with a popup asking, "Straight? Lesbian?" Hey, sometimes bluntness works.

Basically, either app runs on your smartphone and alerts you when someone matching your interests — and also using the app — is close by. This is a frigging revolution in dating, since you no longer have to approach a cute girl at the bookstore only to discover that she's taken, a different orientation or exclusively into athletes. Hypothetically. Seriously, being married rocks, guys.

Other, more mundane location services can automatically show you a coupon for the store you're in, plot a walking or public transit route to your destination, or let you broadcast every step you take to the world.

• **Tablet explosion:** No, not lithium-ion batteries catching on fire, thankfully, though

that's not been unheard of in the past. I mean the sudden proliferation of tablets and tablet operating systems. Sure, there was Apple's iPad 2 leading the pack with a slimmer design and updated iOS. HP brought Palm's webOS to its TouchPad for a brief six weeks before liquidating its whole stock, creating such a frenzy that there's still talk of bringing it back. BlackBerry introduced the Playbook running QNX, supposedly the next generation of their phone software, but price drops haven't been enough to move it off shelves.

Microsoft is a small player so far — at least compared to its dominance on the desktop — preferring to wait until Windows 8 is ready to really push into the tablet space. Android, meanwhile, is available in dozens of different flavors across dozens of hardware manufacturers, from brand names like Samsung and Toshiba to ... let's say "budget" companies like Craig and Coby.

• **Cheap e-readers:** Even Amazon and Barnes & Noble got into the small tablet game with their Kindle Fire and Nook Tablet, both featuring 7-inch screens and multimedia streaming built in. They're tablets marketed as advanced e-readers for \$200 and \$250 respectively, but dedicated e-readers are even cheaper: finally, they're under \$100.

The bare-bones Kindle with Wi-Fi (but no touchscreen) starts at \$79, while B&N's Nook (which *does* have a touchscreen) is \$99. They're playing the old loss leader game: sell the platform without regard for profit and make it up with content sales. E-book prices are actually *rising* now that electronic ink displays are finally good enough and cheap enough that the general public wants them. Such is the danger of an industry consolidating behind just a couple big distributors. On the other hand, subsidized hardware and thousands of free, public domain classic books out there on the Internet for the taking? Win.

Always moving, always explosive, never cheap: twitter.com/CitizenjaQ.

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• **BAJA'S CANTINA** 999 Elm St., 625-2252. Free.
• **BILLY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL** 34 Tarrytown Road, 622-3644, billyssportsbar.com. Free.
• **DERRYFIELD COUNTRY CLUB** 625 Mammoth Road, 669-0235. Free.
• **EXTRA TOUCH GOURMET CAFE** 4 Hawthorne Drive, Bedford, 488-6620.
• **HAROLD SQUARE** 226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, www.harold-square.com. Free.
• **HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** 1701B Hooksett Road, 485-6092. Free.

• **JEWELL & THE BEANSTALK** 797 Somerville St., 624-3709. Free.
• **JILLIAN'S** 50 Phillippe Cote St. Free.
• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** 405 Pine St., 624-6500. Free.
• **NUTFIELD ALE & STEAKHOUSE** 55 John Devine Drive, 668-6110. Free for customers.
• **PANERA BREAD** 933 South Willow St, Manchester, 627-2443, and 7 Colby Ct., Bedford, 641-0500, panerabread.com. Free.
• **PATIO & PAVILION RESTAURANTS** Hilton Garden Inn, 101 S. Commercial St., 669-2222. Free.
• **PENUCHE'S GRILL** 96 Hanover St., 626-9830.
• **REPUBLIC** 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723
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Mast Road, Goffstown, 627-6622, twofriendsbagel.com. Free.
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Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **New Year's Bash correction:** Divots on the River (whose name was incorrect in last week's story about New Year's Eve dinners) at Intervale Country Club, 1491 Front St., Manchester, 232-0665, will host its first Rockin' New Year's Bash, on Saturday, Dec. 31. The event will kick off with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., and dancing. Head Shop will perform and a breakfast buffet will be served at midnight. Tickets cost \$60.

• **End the year with a taste of beer:** Barb's Beer Emporium, 249 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 369-4501, will offer free beer samples and appetizers on Thursday, Dec. 29, from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **Celebrate the new year somewhere new:** Memphis BBQ & Blues, 770 Elm St., Milford, 672-3870, will celebrate Blue Year's Eve with dinner specials and a performance by The Willie Jaye Laws Band on Saturday, Dec. 31, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be a \$10 cover charge at the door. The new barbecue restaurant and blues venue opened on Dec. 20 and serves authentic Memphis-style barbecue, what owner Chuck Hall calls "the traditional four proteins" — ribs, pulled pork, chicken and brisket. The restaurant is open Sunday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., and will have entertainment every weekend.

• **Public supper in Penacook:** A Roast Beef Public Supper will be held at United Church of Penacook, 21 Merrimack St., Penacook, on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 5 to 6 p.m. The meal will include roast beef, potatoes in the jacket, vegetables, coffee and dessert. The dinner costs \$8 (children 8 and under eat free). Call 753-4072 for more information.

• **The holidays continue at Ignite:** Ignite, 100 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-0064, ignitebng.com, has added three festive libations to its cocktail list for the holiday season. Check out the Drunken Nog (Sailor Jerry spiced rum, egg nog, amaretto, butterscotch schnapps and half & half), the Peppermint Stick (Adult Chocolate Milk, Stoli Vanilla vodka, peppermint schnapps and half & half) and the Chocolat Razberi Pomegranate Twist (Stoli Chocolat Razberi vodka, pomegranate vodka and fresh lemon).

• **We know it's cold, but ... :** According to Granite State Dairy Promotion (nhdairypromo.org) Director Amy Hall, the 2012 NH Ice Cream Trail will be released in May.

• **T-Bones staffers do good:** The waitstaff and bartenders of T-Bones (77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677, t-bones.com) raised \$7,422 in tips on Dec. 5 to purchase clothes and toys to donate to the Salvation Army for local children. Tom Boucher, owner/CEO of Great NH Restaurants, contributed an additional \$5,000 to the donation.

• **Queen City café goes wireless:** Midtown Café at the Beacon, 814 Elm St., Manchester, 935-5401, now offers free wireless Internet for its customers.

Continued on page 49

And cupcakes all over

A look at 2011 on the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

2011 seemed like the year of the cupcake here in New Hampshire.

But that wasn't the only big trends in local food this year. Here are some highlights from the 2011 New Hampshire food scene.

• **The return to brick and mortar:** Home business owners have stared down the economy and invested in opening storefronts, so as to expand production and better serve their customers. Kristi Buttler and Heather Cox started Planet Marshmallow, their gourmet marshmallow business, in Cox's Milford kitchen in January and less than a year later opened the Planet Marshmallow Dessert Café across from the Palace Theatre in Manchester. Michele's Totally Awesome Gourmet Popcorn shop opened on Dover Road in Epsom in September and gives customers a sneak peek at Michele Holbrook's popcorn-making process. Good Bread Co. began selling its Craquelins artisan crackers late last year at winter farmers markets and opened a bakery, where bread takes center stage, in Concord at the end of November.

• **The craze continued:** At least a half dozen cupcake shops popped up in southern New Hampshire in 2011: Queen City Cupcakes in Manchester, Who You Callin' Cupcake in Salem, Kate & Grace Cupcakes in Derry, Cupcakes 101 in Bedford, Cupcakes and Cannolies in Nashua, New England Cupcakery in Concord and Cupcake Conspiracy in Merrimack. The flavor combinations at these shops are seemingly endless and many of the stores have begun to dabble in boozy baking, creating such sweet offerings as Margarita, Black Russian, Guinness and Champagne cupcakes. The shops have also started catering to those following special diets by adding vegan and gluten-free cupcakes to their menus. Lee's Bakery and Sweet Retreat in Manchester and Sweetie's Bakery in Nashua were among other sweet shops that opened in the Granite State this year.

• **New ways to learn about food:** In 2011 food became a focus of community education. The Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn held a program about edible plants. Sandra Townsend, a docent at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, created an "Eat, Drink and Be Merry" focus tour to kick off the holiday season; the tour focused on food in art and gave Townsend an opportunity to share with tour-goers the history and significance of food throughout the centuries. Nashua chef Liz Barbour, of The Creative Feast, took matters into her own hands in educating the public by offering a personal shopper service. Barbour gives her clients a tour of the supermarket and shows them how to improve their meal selections. Also in the Gate City, author Edie Clark taught people about the origins of some New England staples with her "Baked Beans and Fried Clams: How Food Defines a Region" presentation.

• **Restaurateurs unite:** A handful of well-known restaurant owners partnered up this year to create new dining options in the Queen City. Red Arrow Diner owner Carol Sheehan, who also opened the Midtown Café at the Beacon building earlier this year, joined with Neville



(Clockwise from top left) A vanilla cupcake from New England Cupcakery in Concord. Lemon green tea cupcakes from Cupcakes 101 in Bedford. Strawberry cupcakes from Queen City Cupcake in Manchester. Smores cupcakes from Who You Callin' Cupcake? in Salem. Angel Roy photo.

Pereira, owner of Ignite and Hooked, to open Divots on the River in October at the Intervale Country Club. Amber Grogan recently closed Jewell & the Beanstalk in Manchester to focus on her collaboration with Josh Enright, former owner of the Rustic Leaf Bistro in Milford. The duo opened Seed to Stalk, formerly the Rustic Leaf Café, in Bedford in October.

• **Wine, technically speaking:** Wine went hi-tech in the Granite State in 2011. The tasting room at Vino Aromas, which opened in Manchester in October, boasts a temperature-controlled cruvinet programmed to dispense three pour levels of wine. Bedford Village Inn sommelier Jon Carnevale upgraded the wine list at Corks to a Corkpad, an iPad that lists all wines offered at the bar and their taste profiles, ratings and suggested food pairings.

• **Restaurant spaces reborn:** Mint Bistro reopened at the end of July after hiding behind a plywood facade for nine months. Owner Roi Shpindler changed the focus of the second rendition of his eatery, offering an Asian fusion menu complete with a sushi bar. Matt Provencher, who left his post as Richard's Bistro executive chef in March, came back this fall and took over the space that housed the iconic Queen City restaurant for 16 years and made it his own. Provencher opened 36 deLux in October. Restaurateur Michael Buckley closed his upscale eatery Michael Timothy's in Nashua at the very star of 2011 and reopened it a few weeks later at MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar to give customers a more casual dining experience.

• **Support for, and from, the Food Bank:** The New Hampshire Food Bank had 62 students graduate from its culinary program in 2011 and an additional 23 through a similar food service course designed specifically for refugees with the help of the International Institute of New Hampshire, said Helen Costello, program manager of the food bank's Recipe for Success program. Forty-six-week Cooking Matters courses, which also fall under the Recipe for Success program, were

conducted around the state by professional chefs and nutritionists to educate low-income families about how to prepare healthy meals. The 4-H Green Thumb Team, a branch of the New Hampshire Common Ground Project run by the UNH Cooperative Extension, grew and donated 1,689 pounds of produce for the Food Bank (the organization usually donates more but a mid-season hail storm destroyed much of its crop). Overall the New Hampshire Food Bank was able to distribute more 7 million pounds of foods in 2011, an increase of more than a million from last year.

• **Helping new Americans grow:** In addition to helping create a food service training program at the New Hampshire Food Bank, the International Institute of New Hampshire offers a Rooting New Americans program, which teaches refugees how to grow all of their crops and sell them at the International Farmers Market in Manchester. The New American Sustainable Agriculture Project, of the New Hampshire-based Organization for Refugees and Immigrant Success, created the Fresh Start Farms brand to allow participating refugees to sell the produce they grow through the program, wholesale. The dining services department at Chester College of New England signed on this year to be one of the brand's first accounts.

• **The next Top Chef?** Pinkerton Academy kicked off the 2011-2012 school year by implementing a culinary program. The student-run kitchen will prepare meals for the school's new Astro Café, which is slated to open to the public by the end of the school year. The Quill restaurant at Southern New Hampshire University underwent a \$250,000 makeover and students were afforded the opportunity to learn how to create spa cuisine, small healthy plates, in the fall semester. The university also began offering mixology classes. The culinary program at Milford High School, which runs the Windows on West Street restaurant, also continued to grow in 2011.

FOOD

Mr. Steer goes carry-out

Meat market expands to café in Londonderry

By Angel Roy
a.roy@hippopress.com

"This is what I get to choose from," David Smith said as he walked by the meat case at Mr. Steer Marketplace in Londonderry. "High-quality meats — tenderloin, pork loin."

Smith will utilize the most popular Boar's Head products sold at Mr. Steer's meat counter for the menu of his new dining venture, Mr. Steer's Kitchen and Carry-out Café, where he is chef-manager. Smith, former owner of Loafer's in Salem and former chef at Brookstone Grille in Derry and C.R. Sparks in Bedford, most recently worked as the executive chef of 900 Degrees Pizzeria in Manchester.

"A lot of people that know me from Loafer's ask if we will have Lobster Corn Succotash [at the café]," Smith said. "If enough people ask for it maybe I will put it on there."

Mr. Steer's Kitchen and Carry-out Café opened in the space tucked next to the Marketplace, with an entrance of its own and an interior door connecting the two, on Dec. 15.

"A week into opening we have definitely seen the benefits of the high traffic Mr. Steer has," Smith said. The café shares its hours with the butcher shop but Smith noted that in the winter the eatery's hours might be more flexible.

"Having not done this before ... I really talk to my customers to see what they're looking for," Smith said of his foray in the carry-out food business. "My perception is that people want regular stuff — macaroni and cheese, chicken broccoli and ziti." Smith said he plans to add high quality comfort food to his menu.

Chalkboard menus hang behind the counter, one dedicated to sandwiches and the other to Smith's noodle-based creations.

"I had the menu boards made in chalk specifically so I could change them," Smith said.

Smith will use Mr. Steer's fresh ground beef in his burgers and roasts his own beef for his roast beef sandwich, topping it with Chubby's BBQ sauce, another best-seller at the shop. Mr. Steer's lemon pepper chicken is used in Smith's Chicken Caesar Wrap. Other items found on the café's made-to-order sandwich board include the Mr. Steer Steakhouse Tip Bomb (Steakhouse steak tips, caramelized onions and cheddar cheese), Tuscan Meatball Sub (meatballs, red sauce, provolone cheese and pecorino romano), Grilled Vegetable Panini (grilled vegetables, pesto and balsamic greens) and Turkey Rachael (roasted turkey breast, Thousand Island dressing, coleslaw, cheddar cheese). All sandwiches are served with the customer's choice of fries, pasta salad or potato salad.

The noodle menu is filled with dishes created by Smith including the Asian Chicken Noodle Stir Fry (chicken, vegetables, lemon ginger broth), Farmhouse Chicken Noodles



David Smith, chef-manager of Mr. Steer Carry Out and Cafe in Londonderry. Angel Roy photo.

(herb-roasted chicken, garden vegetables, herb and garlic broth), Pork Noodles (pork loin, snow peas, roasted peppers, mustard broth) and Tuscan Noodles (roasted chicken, prosciutto, tomatoes, roasted peppers, tomato basil broth).

"We've got chefs working in here so we can be flexible," Smith said.

Smith roasts chicken daily in the rotisserie that sits in plain view of the customers, next to the café's counter. He plans to develop a rotating schedule of other meats that will be roasted on the café's spit.

"I think I will do prime rib on Friday nights," Smith said.

A buffet station in the center of the eatery will be filled with four to six hot entrees daily and a salad bar. Among the entree options you will find during lunchtime at the café, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be Chicken Cacciatore, Fajita Beef (with black beans, tomatoes and corn) and Chicken Pot Pie.

"People can fill up [their boxes], have a little bit for lunch and make another meal out of it," Smith said. A soup station will keep three varieties of soup warm daily — a few recent options were Minestrone, New England Clam Chowder and Grilled Chicken and Corn Chowder. Smith said he will add more broth-based soups to the mix in the spring.

More dinner-focused dishes — precooked "grab and go" items — will fill a tinted display case next to the café's counter around 3 p.m. daily. Some dishes that will likely frequent the case will be meatloaf, stuffed chicken, pork tenderloin, stuffed peppers, chicken marsala, meatballs, whole chickens and a variety of side dishes.

"People can't go out every night to a restaurant," Smith said. "There are a lot of busy people out there. Maybe they want to grab pork chops from Mr. Steer but grab their mashed potatoes and vegetables here so they don't have to make them, too."

The café seats eight guests, a number that could increase slightly should demand call for it, and three picnic tables are on the side of the building for al fresco dining. Smith is already

Chef/Owner Jeffrey Paige


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FOOD

in talks with Mr. Steer owner Chris George to plant an herb garden on the property in the spring.

Smith said his overall focus will be balancing comfort food with creativity.

"I'm looking forward to just watching it grow," he said. "The first few weeks will be hectic sometimes, but when we settle in we will be able to see customers react to the food. It will be satisfying to see that."

Back in Bedford

Shorty's reopens in old Route 101 spot, now as a Grill

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com



Shorty's Grill in Bedford. Angel Roy photo.

Having received a very good offer from someone interested in buying the restaurant he'd founded, Rick Loeffler decided to close the Bedford location of Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse in 2007. When the tenant vacated the space late last fall, Loeffler was faced with a more difficult decision: try to sell the building, or revive what was once the independent chain's flagship eatery?

"We made a decision to do Shorty's again," Loeffler said. The first Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse was opened in Litchfield in 1989. The Bedford location joined the family less than a year later and "really took off like a firecracker," Loeffler said.

"It was very successful," he added. "It spawned our growth." There are now Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse locations in Manchester and Nashua.

The new Bedford Shorty's opened on Dec. 19 and, while Tex-Mex-inspired meals still dominate the menu, Loeffler and his kitchen staff — head chef Gordon Fogal leads the charge — have developed a variety of dishes that expand on the restaurant's concept. In fact, Loeffler dropped the "Mexican Roadhouse" part of the new eatery's moniker, opting instead to name it Shorty's Grill.

"We felt that it was a good thing to do for the company to grow, even in this difficult economic climate, to grow a new restaurant, a new Shorty's, to build the Shorty's brand," Loeffler said. "That's why we're excited to build a Shorty's Grill here."

Soon after closing the Bedford eatery four years ago, Loeffler met Jay DelMonte, who had worked as managing director of the Outback Steakhouse in Nashua for many years and now serves as Shorty's president.

"Since he's joined Shorty's, though the recession has been pretty rough, we have increased sales and really improved our business," Loeffler said. "I give a great deal of credit to him."

No structural changes were made to the exterior of the restaurant but many of the systems inside have been upgraded.

"The building, frankly, was tired," Loeffler said. "It hadn't really had an uplift done to it since we started with Shorty's in 1990. It needed it."

Both new and old faces are among the 55 employees running the show at the Grill.

Shorty's Grill

206 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5706, shortysmex.com
Hours: Monday through Wednesday, 4-11 p.m.; Thursday, 4 p.m.-midnight; Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m.-midnight; Sunday, noon-10 p.m.

"We were really lucky to find a lot of good people," Loeffler said. For now, the new Shorty's will only be open for dinner, but Loeffler plans to begin offering lunch in early 2012.

"We want to get enough people trained for the front and back of the house before we do a second meal period," he said.

New menu items at the Grill include such Asian-inspired dishes as Nobu Chicken (teriyaki marinated chicken served with choice of rice and vegetable, topped with Asian salad), Fresh Miso Haddock (haddock marinated in sake and white miso paste, served with choice of rice and vegetable, topped with Asian salad) and Tempura Chicken Tenders (tempura battered chicken served with mango pineapple salsa and spicy maple chili sauce).

The chicken tenders, Loeffler noted, have been very well received among customers of the Grill and are likely to join the restaurant's Espinaca in becoming one of Shorty's signature menu items.

Some comfort food can also be found on the new menu. Think homemade meatloaf (topped with demi-glace) and spaghetti and meatballs, a dish that Loeffler said could compete with anyone's versions.

"We have very good chefs and they are doing it the right way," he said. "They are doing it with the very best, authentic, correct ingredients."

The Grill is also serving individual-sized thin-crust "designer" pizzas. Personal pizza options on the menu include BBQ Chicken (whiskey barbecue sauce, diced chicken, caramelized onions, mozzarella and smoked gouda), Grilled Veggie (fresh grilled portobellas, peppers, onions, spinach, mozzarella and San Marzano tomato sauce, drizzled with balsamic reduction) and The "Wally" (pepperoni, sopressa, applewood bacon, prosciutto, meatballs, mozzarella and romano).

While beer and margaritas are the focus at the Mexican Roadhouse, Loeffler said the wine list at the Grill has been expanded to nearly 30 offerings.

"We serve a lot of liquor but we're in the food business," Loeffler noted. "We take our food very seriously and our ingredients very seriously."

Loeffler had only kind words to say about other restaurants that also opened on

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How To Keep That New Year's Resolution to Lose Weight

Written by a Hannaford Dietitian

W owing to shed a few pounds tops the list of Americans' most popular New Year's resolutions. But sticking to the plan is easier said than done. Here are some tips for healthy eating that can help you break bad habits and adopt good ones.

Fruit or juice?

It's always best to opt for whole fruits, since they have fiber that keeps us satisfied longer. Calorically, fruit wins, too. A cup of grapes has about 100 calories, but the same amount of 100 percent grape juice has more than 150 calories.

Say yes to soup and salad

One of my favorite ways to get the recommended 2½ cups of veggies a day is to add a salad or soup to lunch and dinner. But beware of high-calorie salad add-ons, such as bacon and fried noodles, and opt for broth-based soups instead of creamy ones.

Go grainy

Whole grains are essential in a healthy diet, but watch out for portion distortion. Just a half cup of cooked rice or pasta equals one serving. Combining fiber-rich whole grains with lean protein will yield even more staying power. Whole-grain cereal with fat-free milk will keep you satisfied longer than a white flour bagel with cream cheese.

Mind the fat

Did you know that the average bakery-chain blueberry muffin contains 15 grams of fat, while a fast-food tuna salad sandwich can have 30 grams? In general, dining out can be a minefield of fat and calories. Visit www.hannaford.com for easy and quick Guiding Stars®-rated recipes you can prepare at home.

Protein power

Protein takes longer to digest than carbohydrates, so keep hunger pangs at bay with protein-rich foods. Excellent sources of protein are fish, chicken, dairy, eggs, beans, nuts, and seeds.

Eat less, more often

Can you snack between meals and still lose weight? Only if you make meals smaller. Three mini-meals and one to three snacks a day is ideal. When hunger strikes, try a piece of fruit, some low-fat yogurt, whole-grain crackers with low-fat cheese, or hummus and veggie sticks.

Not sure where to begin?

Check out the Department of Agriculture's ChooseMyPlate.gov website, where a feature called "myfoodapedia" lets you search for calorie counts on your favorite foods.



Interested In Learning More?

Our registered dietitians hold complimentary classes, have on-the-sales-floor nutrition demonstrations and do healthy store tours.

BEDFORD

4 Jenkins Road (Note: Classes changed from Colby Court store.)
Meet our Nutrition Coordinator, Stephanie Chmielecki, RD, LD
• Join the Weight Loss Challenge: Friday, Jan. 6, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. No registration required.
• Simple Healthy Meal Planning for Weight Loss: Friday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. to noon.

CONCORD

73 Fort Eddy Road
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Gearing Up for Weight Loss in the New Year: Tuesday, Jan. 3, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. No registration required.
• A New Year, a New You: Managing Weight Loss the Healthy Way: Thursday, Jan. 12, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call 228-2060 to register.

MANCHESTER/HOOKSETT

79 Bicentennial Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Healthy Weight Loss: Wednesday, Jan. 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. No registration required.
• Nutrition Bootcamp for Parents and Kids: Wednesdays starting Jan. 11, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 644-2106 to register.

LONDONDERRY

6 Hampton Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Gearing Up for Weight Loss in the New Year: Friday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No registration required.
• A New Year, a New You: Managing Weight Loss the Healthy Way: Wednesday, Jan. 11, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call 421-0921 to register.

MANCHESTER/EAST SIDE

859 Hanover St.
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Nutrition Boot Camp for Adults, Week 1: Friday, Jan. 6, 11 a.m. to noon. Call 624-4442 to register.
• Healthy Weight Loss: Friday, Jan. 6, 1 to 4 p.m. No registration required.

MANCHESTER/SOUTH

201 John Devine Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Healthy Weight Loss: Thursday, Jan. 5, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or Saturday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No registration required.
• 'Newtrents' and New Trends Healthy Shopping Tour: Thursday, Jan. 5, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 626-4567 to register.

NASHUA

175 Coliseum Avenue
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Susan O'Keefe
• Happy New Year Healthy Party Tips: Saturday, Dec. 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No registration required.
• Simply Healthy Meal Planning for Weight Loss: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. No registration required.

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the Route 101 corridor this year — Tek-nique and the Copper Door.

“I think those two are top quality and could be successful anywhere,” he said. Shorty’s Grill, he added, stands out a little

from the rest on that stretch of road because it offers a more casual atmosphere.

“Those other places are a little more upscale, a little more formal,” he said. “We want to kind of be the local joint.”

Italian from scratch

‘We’re here to make people happy’

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

You will not find chicken parmesan, fettuccine bolognese or meatballs on the menu at Luna Caprese in Merrimack, but that doesn’t mean you can’t order them. All dishes at Luna Caprese are made to order, from scratch. The menu, however, is only a guideline.

“Whatever people like, as long as I have it in house, I will do it,” said chef-owner Antonio Bruno. “A lot of people order off the menu.”

Bruno, a native of Capri, Italy, has been in the restaurant business for more than 30 years and has owned eateries in New York, Bermuda and England. He opened Luna Caprese in a small red house with white latticework on the Daniel Webster Highway in April, shortly after he and his family moved to New Hampshire to help a friend.

The 140-seat restaurant has an open-door policy that allows for diners to stop in to the kitchen to say hello to Bruno and his staff. “We want people to feel comfortable,” Bruno said. “We don’t have anything to hide here. We like people to see what we’re cooking and that we do everything fresh.”

The herbs at Luna Caprese are so fresh, in fact, that the basil and rosemary are grown among the bushes lining the front of the restaurant and the sage in a pot tucked in the corner of the lobby. Bruno does all the shopping for his restaurant to ensure he is getting the best products.

“If I see something I don’t like I won’t buy it,” he said. “That way I can keep the prices down as well.”

Bruno said his “very light” homemade red sauce is made with garlic roasted in-house, olive oil and very little butter. The light sauce pairs well with the lightness of the Southern Italian dishes on the menu, Bruno said.

“Light is what people like, especially late at night,” he said.

The Capri (chicken or veal cutlet topped with fresh basil, tomatoes, olive oil, mozzarella, pecorino and garlic in a homemade limoncello sauce) has emerged as one of the eatery’s signature dishes, as have the Risotto con Aragosta (risotto with fresh lobster, sweet red peppers, zucchini and corn in a lobster sauce), Filetto dell Forestiero (a 10-oz. grilled beef filet wrapped in pancetta and asparagus, topped with mozzarella in a mushroom port wine sauce) and the Grigliata de Pesce (broiled haddock, garlic shrimp, scallops and baked stuffed clams served with lemon sauce).

“Most ‘Italian’ restaurants around here all have the same thing on their menu,” Bruno said. “We needed to be different.” Bruno was sure to add many vegetarian dishes to his menu to accommodate a variety of dietary preferences. Gluten-free pasta made in house is also available by request.

One of the menu items Bruno described

as a little bit different is the Lobster Bisque Cappuccino, which is warm lobster bisque topped with homemade whipped cream, similar to the froth found on the espresso beverage it was named after. The whipped cream, Bruno said, adds a little sweetness to the bisque.

The Crab Cake Eggplant (crab and eggplant meat seasoned and pan seared, served over greens with lemon butter sauce) and Mozzarella all Bacio (layers of mozzarella, eggplant, zucchini and fresh basil, breaded and fried, served over greens with tomato sauce) are on the lengthy list of Bruno’s appetizer creations.

Each diner is served a basket of freshly made roasted garlic spinach, sun-dried tomato and rosemary garlic breads with an oil-based dipping sauce that many customers have inquired about purchasing. Many customers do, in fact, buy whole loaves of bread at the restaurant, but Bruno said he is not ready to start selling the oil, though he has not ruled it out. In the future he may also try to sell his house-made balsamic salad dressing, he said.

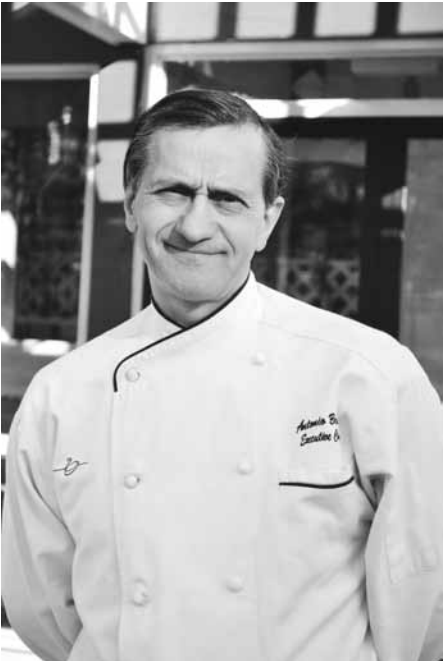
An early-bird special is offered at Luna Caprese daily from 4 to 6 p.m. and includes soup or salad, an entree, and coffee or tea for \$13.50. Featured early-bird entrees include Penne Alla Vodka, Pollo Piccata and Eggplant Parmesan.

Luna Caprese also offers a children’s menu, created by Bruno’s wife, that features such kid-friendly dishes as the Molten

Luna Caprese

75 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, 578-9950

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Antonio Bruno, owner of Luna Caprese in Merrimack. Angel Roy photo.

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FOOD

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Other than the Italian gelato, all desserts are made in-house at Luna Caprese and include New York Cheesecake, Tiramisu and Crepes filled with homemade cannoli filling with bananas and strawberries, topped with warm chocolate sauce and

whipped cream. Cannolis are also made at the restaurant.

Bruno hopes to open for lunch in early 2012 and serve a midday menu of thin-crust pizzas, burgers, paninis and pastas. He may also try opening the restaurant for Sunday brunch.

“I love the challenge [of owning a restaurant],” Bruno said. “We’re here to make people happy.”

Weekly Dish

continued from page 42

• **New eats at the Griddle:** Chapanga’s Griddle and Grill, 168 Elm St., Milford, 249-5214, chapangas.com, has released a new menu that features a section entirely devoted to club sandwiches (turkey, roast beef, ham and cheese, Italian, grilled chicken, hamburger and cheeseburger). New burger selections include the Grilled Portabella Stack (jumbo portabella cap, topped with roasted red peppers, provolone, balsamic red onion, fresh basil, spinach and tomato), the Caprese Burger (topped with fresh mozzarella, balsamic red onion, fresh basil, spinach and tomato) and the Chapanga

Burger (salami, pepperoni, ham, marinara and provolone). All burgers and sandwiches are served with chips or French fries.

• **Be treated like a mayor:** Red Arrow Diner, 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118, redarrowdiner.com, will allow the person who reaches Mayor status on Foursquare (the person who checks in the most with the application) to cut the line at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

• **Adios to a local eatery:** Pochito’s Mexican Restaurant and Cantina, 33 S Commercial St., Manchester, has closed.

Food Listings

Winter markets

• **CANTERBURY** in Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., ccfma.net.
• **CONCORD** at Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road in Concord, some Saturdays starting with Sat., Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See www.colegardens.com.
• **DERRY** at the Derry Recreation/Vets Hall, 31 W Broadway, Derry, the first and third Sundays November through March from noon to 4 p.m. See www.derry-nh.org.
• **EPPING** 16 Main St. in Epping, the first Friday of each month from November through April, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call 642-8747.
• **HOOKSETT** at White Birch Brewing, 1339 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, on Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.
• **MILFORD** at Milford Town Hall Auditorium, 1 Union Square in Milford, on some Saturdays per month through May from 9 a.m. to noon: Jan. 7, Jan. 21; Feb. 18; March 3; March 17; April 14, April 21; May 5, and May 9. See www.milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.
• **NEWMARKET** at Carpenter’s Olde English Greenhouse, 220 S. Main St. in Newmarket, the third Saturday of the month from October to April.
• **RAYMOND** at Lamprey River School, 33 Old Manchester Road, on Saturdays, Jan. 21, Feb. 18 and March 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
• **SALEM** at United Methodist Church on Pleasant Street on Sundays Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 19 and March 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Visit salemfarmersmarket.com
• **SEACOAST EAT LOCAL** starts on Nov. 20 and alternates between Wentworth Greenhouses and Rollinsford and Exeter high schools. Visit seacoasteatlocal.org/winterfarmersmarkets/ for a full schedule.
• **TILTON** at 67 E. Main St.,

In the spotlight



The Family Meal: Home Cooking with Ferran Adrià (2011, Phaidon)

This is perhaps the most non-terrifying cookbook ever written by a completely terrifying chef. Adrià is best known for elBulli, one of those greatest-restaurant-in-the-world type restaurants, which wowed people with feats of molecular gastronomy until it closed last summer. The idea of a cookbook from Adrià that a regular Joe with an average kitchen would attempt to cook from almost seems absurd. It’s the culinary equivalent of saying “you have a garage, some spare tires and some motor oil — see if you can build a Ferrari.”

But *The Family Meal* is not building a Ferrari. There’s at least one foam, sure, but for the most part there are well-explained meals created from simple recipes and instructions that are often demonstrated via photos. Take for example “Meal 12”: Farfalle with pesto, Japanese-style bream, mandarins with Cointreau. The initial page lays out the main ingredients including what you need to buy fresh, what you may have in the pantry and what might be in the refrigerator or the freezer. A timeline lays out what to do when (this particular meal is estimated to take an hour of preparation followed by a few tasks once the meal has started). A spread on the next two pages goes in to detail about how to make the first course, with photos that show you what everything should look like at each step along the way. The next three pages do the same for the fish (a protein that can be intimidating) and then the dessert, which looks pretty (basically, a scoop of ice cream over some oranges) and elegant but is quite simple to put together.

The dishes in these meals represent a blend of cuisines (I spotted French, Italian, Spanish, Asian and American dishes) but none of them is individually so exotic as to be insurmountable. And the step-by-step photos help to instill confidence that any unfamiliar techniques are within your reach and any unusual ingredients are just a special part of a completely manageable meal.

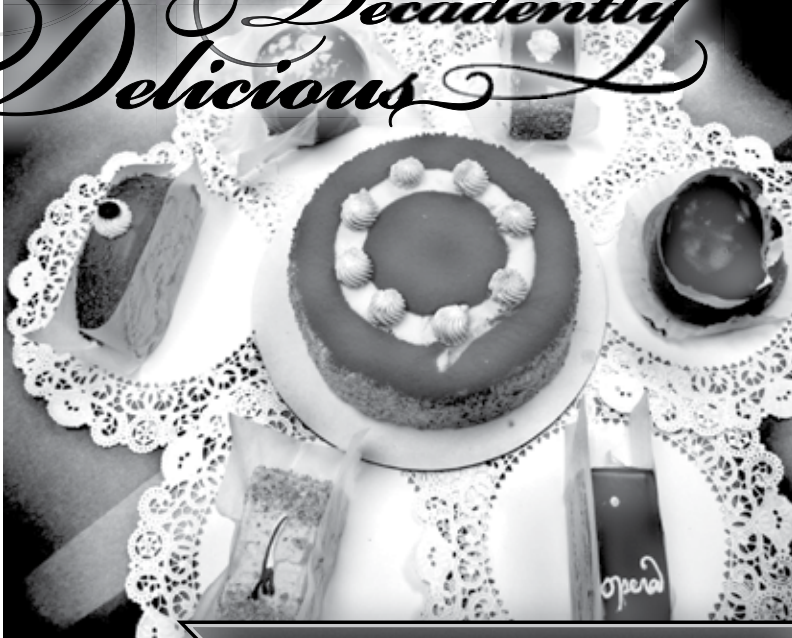
— Amy Diaz

every Saturday from January through March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com.

• **WE ARE ONE FARMERS**

MARKET at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 118 Center Road in Weare, Fridays through March 30, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. See weare1farmersmarket.org.

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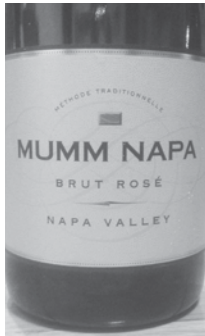
Red, white and green

A lot of wine, a little cash

Celebrating the New Year without some sort of bubbly is sort of like the Fourth of July without flags or hamburgers — it just seems wrong. So this week we took two very different takes on popping the cork.

Our first bubbly was a **La Marca Prosecco**

(\$16.99; we bought on sale for \$13.99). Prosecco is Italy’s sparkling wine. It’s grown in the northwestern part of Italy, close to the Austrian border, and comes from the grape glera. Prosecco uses a different method for making the wine sparkling than Champagne. Rather than a second fermentation as is used for Champagne, prosecco makers do the second fermentation in tanks and bottle the wine under pressure to get those finer bubbles than Champagne. The color of the La Marca is light straw with a nose of yeast and grapefruit. For flavors we got grapefruit, green apple, minerals and Meyer lemon. The first sip went in with a bit of green apple and finished up on the Mey-



er lemon. Very nice small bubbles gave the wine a nice structure too.

For our second bubbly we went clear across the globe to Napa, Calif. We chose the **Brut Rose Mumm Napa** (\$19.99; we bought for \$16.99).

This is a rosé or blush sparkling wine and comes from Napa area pinot noir (85 percent) and chardonnay (15 percent) grapes. The red color is gained by adding a small amount of pinot noir wine to the mix. For color we got a blush pink and for nose we got nice notes of yeast. Though blush in color, this wine is quite dry and crisp with flavors of slight strawberries (very slight), minerals and a bit of rosehip. The bubbles are medium fine in size.

Each week in “Red, White & Green,” two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

Drink Listings Breweries/Distilleries

- **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy, Merrimack. Complimentary tours include a visit to the Clydesdale Hamlet, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 595-1202.
- **ELM CITY BREWING COMPANY** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, www.elmcitybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub, open Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **THE FLYING GOOSE BREW PUB & GRILLE** 40 Andover Road in New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com.
- **INCREDIBREW / GRAPE TIME WINERY** 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, grape-timewinery.com (call for class schedule, tastings)
- **ITALIAN OASIS RESTAURANT & BREWERY** 106 Main St. in Littleton, 444-6695.
- **MARTHA’S EXCHANGE RESTAURANT & BREWING COMPANY** 185 Main St. in Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com.
- **MILLY’S TAVERN** 500 Commercial St. in Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com.
- **MOAT MOUNTAIN SMOKE HOUSE & BREWING COMPANY** 3378 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-6381, moatmountain.com.
- **THE PORTSMOUTH BREWERY** 56 Market St., Portsmouth, www.portsmouthbrewery.com, 603-431-1115. Free tours Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 3 p.m.
- **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, www.redhook.com, produces Redhook ales and features the Cataqua Public House offering brews and a pub menu. Tours offered Monday and Tuesday at 2

- p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday at noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday every hour on the hour from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday every hour on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m.
- **SEVEN BARREL BREWERY** 5 Airport Road in West Lebanon, 298-5566.
- **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, smuttynose.com, 436-4026. Free tours to the public Friday at 3 p.m., Saturday at 11 a.m.
- **TUCKERMAN BREWING COMPANY** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, www.tuckerman-brewing.com, offers tours every Saturday at 3 p.m.
- **WHITE BIRCH BREWING** 1339 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 244-8593, www.whitebirchbrewing.com. Open daily.
- **WOODSTOCK INN BREWERY** 135 Main St., North Woodstock, 745-3951, woodstockinbrewery.com.

Cider

- **CROOKED TREE CIDER**, 35 Stickney Road, Whitefield, 837-9174, crookedtreecider.com
- **FARNUM HILL CIDERS** 98 Poverty Lane, Lebanon, 448-1511, www.farnumhillciders.com
- **SILVER MOUNTAIN CIDERS**, Lempster, 477-2026, silvermountainciders.com (open Thurs.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment)

Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

- **HAPPY NEW BEERS** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Fri., Jan. 6. The cost is \$35 and reservations are required.
- **WINEFEST** will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Fri., Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$60 (includes six bottles of wine) and reservations are required.
- **DARK AND STORMY NIGHT**

BREWFESt will be held at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Tues., Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$60 (includes two cases of beer) and reservations are required.

Classes/workshops on beer/wine tasting

- **RHONE MASTER COURSE** A Grape Affair in Portsmouth (433-0160, agrapeaffair.com) will offer an eight-week Rhône Master-Level certificate program through the French Wine Society. The course will include eight weeks of online study (15 live webinars conducted by wine experts) and an opportunity for a live course review and tasting with Roz Angoff, A Grape Affair educator and certified Rhône Master, on Sun., April 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. The exam will be administered on Sun., April 22. The course costs \$260 (\$410 with exam). Visit agrapeaffair.com to register.

Special wine tastings

- **MURDER MYSTERY** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com, will host “A Fateful Family Affair,” a Zorvino Murder Mystery, on Sat., Jan. 21, at 6 p.m., and the \$30 ticket price will include a signed book and light appetizers. The tasting room will be open during the event. Reservations are required.
- **WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR**, a fundraiser for Easter Seals NH, will be held Thurs., Jan. 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson in downtown Manchester. Sample hundreds of wines and enjoy eats from local restaurants. Tickets to the grand tasting cost \$65 per person. Tickets to the grand tasting plus the Bellman’s Cellar Select room (which features higher-end wines and runs from 6 to 8 p.m.) cost \$125 per person. See nh.easterseals.com for tickets.

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On behalf of all of us at The Hanover Street Chophouse we want to thank you for your devoted patronage this past year. Your loyalty and goodwill helped us achieve our best sales year yet, and finally established us as the #1 Fine Dining Restaurant in southern New Hampshire!

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POP CULTURE

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- Two words: monster truck

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- A grand year for a grand of games

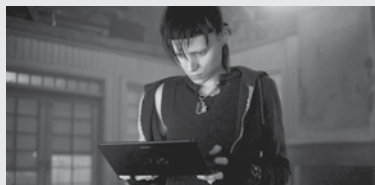
BOOKS pg56

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparkers@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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- *We Bought a Zoo*, **B+**



- *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, **B-**

POP CULTURE:

CDS

2011 was born this way

A few genres shine in a sea of corporate music

By Eric W. Saeger
news@hippopress.com

2011 was a bad year for rock & roll, no question. The rebirth of the '60s happened basically in spite of it. Neither the Arab Spring nor the Occupy movement kids needed it at all. All they needed was the video, not the soundtrack. Huh?

Mainly owing to long-invalidated connotations with DA-haired tough guys in leather bomber jackets, rock has long been the art of choice for rebellion. Past generations got their inspiration and socially progressive ideas from books, whereas for the most part ours listens to rock when getting pumped up to think/work outside the box.

The Man figured out rock music long ago and made his move this year. In 2011, more than in any other year, radio stars were churned out on an impersonal assembly line, turning rock itself into the thing its most rock-starrish rock stars hate most, a tool of the Corporate Military Congressional Complex, or however you like to say it.

In contrast, video realized its potential to be a dangerous tool, one of rebellion and instant game-changing. The Occupy movement had more grainy documentary footage produced in one day than in all of 1968, for instance. Just think if 150 cell cameras had been in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963. Instant YouTubes are the new punk rock.

All video did for music this year was help push it further down the cultural essential-nutrients list. There are no longer rock & roll fantasies, just varying degrees of rock & roll reality, thanks to YouTube, Facebook and the dentists who work on the Disney-safe singers who get to the final rounds of *American Idol*. Just ask Rebecca Black, whose unintentional joke song "Friday" turned her into the most bizarre anti-star ever and finally revealed the face of the great rock & roll swindle.

Popular music is now completely dependent on the visual for everything.

As of this year, every small-potatoes start-up band has to have a video menu-link on their website. Every band with a record contract has an associated cinematic style (usually having little to do with the music, but who's counting). And every major rock star has at least as much video branding as Carrot Top or Pauly Shore. Let's not kid ourselves; Katy Perry is the next Carol Burnett, not the next Pat Benatar.

In 2011, Lady Gaga became an odd but not unimaginable little micro-Corporate Military Congressional Complex of her own, brazenly lying on camera about everything from her lip-synching to, well, you know, everything. If she told me President George Washington was dead I wouldn't believe her. Meantime her handlers bought sex itself, meaning the brand, from Madonna's people, and increasingly used it within video to divert attention from her rapidly drying well of musical ideas. Is "Born This Way" one of the suckiest ripoff songs ever or what?

Rebellion always has its day, though, and so this year music itself fought back, trying to wrest just a little importance back from video. The hipster crowd in Brooklyn watched in horror as band after band played catchy music at the Bowery Ballroom, all in rude opposition to the unelected star-makers' unspoken rule that "hooks are for losers." There's still some scattered dweeby opposition to this movement, of course, like New York band Black Taxi, whose boring Strokes-ripoff nonsense goes great with their members' inability to name one band from Boston other than the Cars ("Oh, and the band Boston sucks!" they add. Such a rebellious statement! Oi, get off my lawn!).

Corporate hip-hop had a somewhat tough year, maybe because too many people finally saw the *Sopranos* episodes about the guy who faked his own shooting, I don't know. hilariously, like selling buggy whips to Model T owners, MCs tried everything to get people to buy physical CDs, from weird origami sleeves to cross-promotions with other aspects of their brands, like "get a coupon for 50% off

Best albums of 2011, in no particular order

M83, *Hurry Up We're Dreaming* (alt-rock, easily the best record of the year)

Battles, *Gloss Drop* (hard techno-rockouts)

Cymbals Eat Guitars, *Lenses Alien* (Pavement in a street fight with Jane's Addiction while everything in sight gets doused with fire hoses)

Yellowjackets, *Timeline* (this 20-year-old jazz crew still has some great hooks up its sleeve)

Bon Iver, *Bon Iver* (gloom-folk)

Deathface, *Fall of Man* (chopped-and-screwed drum 'n' bass)

DJ Shadow, *The Less You Know The Better* (alt hip-hop)

Mocean Worker, *Candygram For MoWo!* (throwback trip-jazz)

Korpiklaani, *Ukon Wacka* (grog-guzzling speed-metal)

Radiohead, *The King of Limbs* (alt-rock)

Elbow, *Build a Rocket Boys!* (fish-n-chip British chill-indie, utterly fascinating)

Bela Fleck & The Flecktones, *Rocket Science* (Appalachian prog-jazz)

Otto Kinzel, *We Are All Doomed* (Promising start for local aggro-tech guy)

Mark Wonder, *True Stories of Mark Wonder* (reggae-pop)

Black Keys, *El Camino* (Cramps-a-billy)

Asobi Seksu, *Fluorescence* (shoegaze)

Sway Machinery, *The House of Friendly Ghosts Vol. 1* (world-prog)

Klutae, *Electro Punks Unite* (aggro-tech)

Coldplay, *Mylo Xyloto* (now that they've finally made a good album, perhaps they can bug off?)

Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr., *It's a Corporate World* (quirk-indie)

Keb Mo, *The Reflection* (hotel-lobby vocal-jazz)

Pet Shop Boys, *The Most Incredible Thing* (symphonic techno)

Red Heart the Ticker, *Your Name in Secret I Would Write* (authentic 19th-century New England folk)

k. d. lang, *Sing It Loud* (pop/country)

Mambo Legends Orchestra, *Ten Cuidao!* (mambo)

Raveonettes, *Raven in the Grave* (psych-surf)

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POP CULTURE:

CDs

a Bling-a-Bling hoodie with a purchase of the CD!" I mean, why not just Sharpie "I TOOK MARKETING 101" on your forehead, guys? That wasn't a problem with underground hip-hop, though; Das Racist was just one act that rewrote the ground rules.

Another good bit of news in 2011 was that electronic music finally decided to take over hard rock in its own way (Deadmau5, Justice, etc.), but it's really just the tip of the iceberg. Imaginations will run

wild in the next few years, as shy geeks overcome the guilt associated with the ease of making almost fully automated symphonies and start replacing prog-rock with some really crazy ProTools stuff.

Last and of course least, heavy metal was in a holding pattern all year, trying to decide whether the next step is a Cookie-Monster-sized hybrid of '80s rock (Bury Your Dead) or all-out math madness a la Dillinger Escape Plan (too many lame attempts to list). Do you care? If so, why?

Human Switchboard, *Who's Landing in My Hangar: Anthology 1977-1984*
Bar None Records, Oct. 24

HUMAN SWITCHBOARD



Some cultural quirks have no business ever developing, such as in the '90s, when suddenly, like some weird psychic flash mob, all of

Seattle's rock royalty, everyone from Screaming Trees to Chris Cornell, declared Human Switchboard the greatest, like, ever, band (Kurt Cobain, apparently having never heard a Ramones or Bad Brains song before, went so far as to drawl that HS's "Refrigerator Door" was the "Stairway to Heaven" of punk). Haven't heard anything about them since, have you, until now, not that I need to drive the point home any further? But shut up, Saeger, even you can see the vital importance of a band that could morph from Richard Hell (whenever Bob Pfeifer sang) to 10,000 Maniacs (whenever Myrna Marcarian sang) at will and, plus, also, used genuine Munsters keyboards to scoop up all the retro-'50s brownie points the industry was doling out in those days to their favorite good doobies. I'll

assume that there are literally handfuls of people who might be interested in knowing this (quite generous) retrospective album exists, and so my work is done pertinent to this item, up up and away. **B-** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Seun Kuti & Egypt 80, *From Africa with Fury: Rise*
Knitting Factory Records, June 21



Seun Kuti had some big guns in his corner upon the seminal occasion of piloting his father Fela's band in a semi-major

U.S. release. The busy rhythms and upbeat attitude (tempered, of course, with Gandhiesque expressions of hatred for the same corporate Man that's always exploited Africa) haven't changed under Seun, and despite the mix being commanded by Brian Eno and U2 producer John Reynolds, neither has the overall sound. Attribute this to the fact that much of this incarnation of Egypt 80 is the same crew that was on board when Fela invented Afrobeat (around the time of, and partially inspired by, the Black

Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases



- No one in their right mind would release their new record on the first workday after New Year's since everyone's drunk. So that leaves only a few oddball things to cover. Anyway, if you weren't drunk and thinking about baking cookies (you need to stop that before you hurt yourself and the whole apartment building, really seriously) you'd probably find it funny that **Lego Feet** aren't a kids' band, they're a sort of primitive IDM thing, and their self-titled EP is out next week. OK, actually it's not a real debut EP, it's an EP that came out in 1991, and it introduced the world to the British techno duo Autechre, who changed their name after realizing the name "Lego Feet" kind of sucked. Anyway, the reason we're even talking about this is because the record label found a bunch of these on vinyl and people sold them on eBay, and now it's on a CD. So... wait, put down the cookie dough log and the butter and pay attention: THAT is the blueprint for rock-star success in 2012: put out a record, then get a retail job, then wait 20 years, then sell it on eBay for mega profits. What could be simpler?

- Slightly more weird and obscure is the "test" record *Wonders* from **Oliveray**. By "test" I guess they mean they're testing to see if anyone would be interested in a classical/prairie-folk soundtrack album that hasn't been assigned to a movie yet and never will be, and testing to see if they're breaking the Guinness World Record for "number of times the members of a band can be heard talking to each other during their music." Whoa, slow down, it's not out until Tuesday. Proceed orderly and calmly.

- Wait a second, here's something worthwhile: the Complete Funhouse Sessions from **The Stooges**! "[This] 7-CD boxed set is the complete — and remastered — May 1970 sessions which produced the album that has elevated to classic stature." I'll say, huh? And finally, plenty of copies of it! And just in time for Christmas! Oh wait.

- And blah blah blah, bunch of unnecessary import albums and nothing else, yadda yadda, including an SHM-CD version of *Tommy* by **The Who**, which only came out because there aren't yet enough copies of old decrepit Who albums to cover every inch of the state of Kansas. Happy 2012, everyone! — *Eric W. Saeger*

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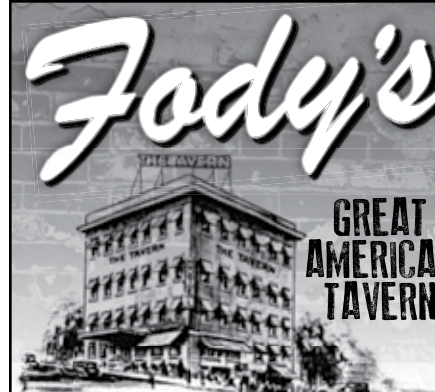
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POP CULTURE:

CDs

Panthers); the vibe isn't horribly different from the alien highlife organism to which America was first introduced when Dr. No came out, if you want the handiest of comparisons. Once in a while, through all this throwbackness, something pops out that

drags the listener into the here and now, for instance the clear-as-a-bell, meticulously engineered trumpet (not to mention the diss against ever-reliably-evil Monsanto) that bursts into the title track. **A**
— *Eric W. Saeger*

POP CULTURE:

POP

Two words: monster trucks

The view from inside Grave Digger

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

At any monster truck event, Gary Porter has the best seat in the house. Strapped inside the legendary Grave Digger monster truck, Porter is showered with cheers from fans. It is a feeling, even after more than 20 years in the sport, that still awes him.

"The adrenaline and the rush is still there," Porter said. "When I'm about to perform in front of a crowd and they're jumping up and down and waving the Grave Digger flags, it is pretty special."

Porter knows what it is like to be a fan. He was one himself before he ever crushed his first car. Growing up in Wadesboro, N.C., Porter was always interested in four-wheel-drive vehicles. His brother even owned his own shop. In the early 1980s, Porter made a trip up to Indianapolis to see a rally. His life would never be the same.

"When I saw the way the crowd responded to the monster trucks running over the cars, I was hooked," Porter said.

It took three years but in 1985 he finished his own monster truck, Carolina Crusher, and competed in his first event. At the time, he thought the sport was a fad that would last a few years or his own interest would wane. It didn't really work out that way.

"After 20 years, I'm still excited," Porter said. "I still watch other drivers and [am] amazed at what they can do with a truck."

Porter said in the '80s the sport was epitomized by a bunch of rednecks with big tires. Over the years the technology and the fan support have evolved. Porter said now fan safety is the number one priority, as is the safety of the drivers. In the beginning, the monster trucks drove slowly, actually crushing the cars. Now they fly over them and can jump 20 or 30 feet in the air. Most are 12 feet wide and 12 feet high and weigh close to 10,000 lbs.

It is the grace with which these massive machines maneuver that inspires wonder in monster truck fans, especially the children.

"For kids it's bigger than life," Porter said. "As a driver I see it every weekend and I'm still amazed so I can't even imagine how a child or an adult feels only seeing it once a year."

While Porter still loves the show, he said the day-to-day routine had lost some of its luster. For him, each event begins six to eight hours before the show starts. As an old-timer, Porter travels with the rig. Once the truck arrives at an arena, they have to put the wheels on it, gas it up and double-check everything. Then the truck goes through a strict safety test. After the test there is a driver's meeting and on some days that is followed by a pit party. Then it



Gary Porter drives Grave Digger. Courtesy photo.

is time to wait for the event to begin.

Events, like the ones at the Verizon Wireless Arena on Friday, Jan. 6, and Saturday, Jan. 7, typically include a wheelie contest, side-by-side racing and freestyle. Porter's experience often helps him with the freestyle portion because he knows the size of arenas and what has been accomplished before. He said some of the young drivers have an advantage because their bones don't ache as long as his do after a show.

During a show everything is so fast-paced Porter doesn't have time to do anything else. Most times he just stays in the truck because it takes so long to get strapped in.

Being strapped inside the Grave Digger truck guarantees fans are going to root for Porter. It also adds some pressure.

"Fans expect to see the Grave Digger truck perform differently and better than the others," Porter said. "But with the caliber and competition from other drivers being so high that is getting harder to do."

Porter said people love the Grave Digger truck because of the paint job and the fact that its original driver, Dennis Anderson, gave people what they wanted. Anderson may not have won every race, but he would drive harder and faster than everyone else. He was memorable. Now there are eight Grave Digger trucks and eight drivers who perform around the country. This is the Grave Digger's 30th anniversary.

When a show is over, Porter goes over every nut and bolt to make sure the truck is intact. If things need to be replaced, they are. The trucks will go through another safety check before the next show.

Whenever Porter, who turned 50 years old this year, decides to hang up his driving gloves, he will never stop working with machines. He said some people relax on the beach. He loves being on a piece of equipment on his farm in North Carolina.

Advance Auto Parts Monster Jam

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POP CULTURE:

POP

na, preferably in a place with no cell phone reception.

"I get to be in my own world," he said.

He also said he could never have predicted how far the sport would come. He said he only sees it getting bigger in the

future. He sees better trucks performing in bigger arenas in front of larger crowds.

"One day this won't be just a North American sport," Porter said. "It will be enjoyed by the world."

POP CULTURE:

GAMES

Grand year, a grand in games

An expensive hobby has a great year



By Glenn Given
production@hippopress.com

We're reaching what should be the end of the current console cycle. The XBOX 360 has been in homes since 2005, the PS3 and Wii since '06. This latest family of gaming machines has drawn out further than the typical five- to eight-year life span of previous generations. Generally speaking, though, it is at the tail end of a console's life that audiences see the most interesting implementations in the hardware. Developers have had ample experience with the hardware to know its peculiarities and can make the most of the platform they are creating for. What the latter third of a hardware cycle lacks in blockbuster releases it tends to make up for with artistic flair, technical achievement and boundary-pushing graphics.

Picking a "best" among the strong field of candidate, across the most technically differentiated field of console competitors in a lifetime, is futile. Here is a personal Top 10, in ALPHABETICAL order because I love all my children equally.

Bastion (XBLA/PC/Google Chrome) **Supergiant Games, E10+**

I hasten to call *Bastion* an Indie game. Yes, Supergiant Games is a small studio as far as triple A titles go, but what they crafted into their isometric action RPG is of the highest quality. On the surface it's a cartoon-esque *Diablo*-style adventure, but it has a satisfyingly broad upgrade system, an ingenious challenge mode and a level of customizability that fits each player like a glove.

Batman: Arkham City (360/PS3/PC) **Rocksteady, T**

There is a middle ground between the camp of '60s Batman and the grimdark realism of the recent Christopher Nolan features. Supposedly this is where the comic book lies today, but on last glance that seemed dubious. What *Batman: Arkham City*, and its prede-

cessor *Arkham Asylum*, do so successfully is marry that technicolor insanity of Batman's foes and environment with the grit and weight of a real fight. *Arkham City*'s Batman is richly detailed and thrilling, and super-heroics have never felt this perfect to embody.

Dead Space 2 (360/PS3/PC) **Visceral games, M**

Survival Horror! Who would have thought that would come back so strong? Since *Resident Evil 2* and *Silent Hill* the survival horror genre has steadily tumbled downhill. One can only twitch at so many jump scares and zombies before desensitization sets in. *Dead Space 2*, and to a less popular extent *Amnesia: The Dark Descent*, brought the genre screaming back to the tops of minds. Space nightmare aliens mutate corpses and drive an engineer to insanity aboard a spooooky space station; fun!

Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim (360/PS3/PC) **Bethesda Game Studios, M**

What can you say about a fantasy where you can slay dragons, giants and goblins while scouring the frozen countryside for realistically rendered collectible wheels of cheese? The *Fallout 3* team makes another pass of the iron over the wrinkly pantsuit of open world RPG and manages to flatten most of the game breaking jank. The result is a beautiful world full of awkward animations populating an addictive and engrossing landscape.

Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword (Wii) **Nintendo, E10+**

Yes, it's another Zelda game and yes, again you pit the green clad ur-hero against a nefarious force that has captured the princess Zelda and threatens to plunge the world into desolation. What pulls *Skyward Sword* ahead of the pack of Zelda also-rans are the Motion Plus sword controls. This last gasp of the Wii before Nintendo's 2012 release of the Wii U is a strong contender in the Zelda lineage and

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POP CULTURE:



an adventure that pushes the Wii back to the
land of relevance.

LittleBigPlanet 2 (PS3) **Media Molecule, E**

It's easy to call *LittleBigPlanet 2* just a
by-the-numbers sequel to the left-field
PS3 delight *LittleBigPlanet*. But that would
only go to show that you've never played
an ounce of this wonderful January gem.
There is ample well-made platforming here
but *LBP2* exponentially grows the cre-
ative promise of its parents. The tools at a
player's disposal for content creation and
customization are frighteningly robust. As
long as you're sketching within the artis-
tic style of the title, basically every type of
game is buildable within *LBP2*'s workshop.

Portal 2, (360/PS3/PC/MAC) **Valve, E10+**

Stephen Merchant's deliciously inept robot
Wheatley charmed gamers through hours of
space-warping puzzles in the follow-up to the
critical darling *Portal*. Again you are armed
with a portal-creating gun and passive-aggres-
sively marked for death in the name of science
and as before it is a beautiful, delicious, moist
treat. The new tools like physics-manipulat-
ing gels broaden the possibilities but it is the
addition of co-op play that ices the cake.

Saint's Row The Third (360/PS3/PC) **Volition, M**

On one hand I probably shouldn't in good
conscience recommend a game where you
club your foes to death with a wobbly base-
ball bat-sized "marital aid." On the other hand
Saint's Row The Third is the smartest stupid
game ever. Every dunderheaded trope of ado-
lescent power-fantasy, up to and including
Burt Reynolds, is gloriously wallowed in and
gosh darn it, it is grand. *Saint's Row The Third*
ups the insanity of *Grand Theft Auto* abandon
to eleventyone with thick layers of puerile
humor and exquisite execution.

Trine 2 (360/PS3/PC/MAC/Linux) **Frozenbyte, E10+**

The first time I loaded *Trine 2* on my PC
my jaw dropped. The rich color palette and
gilded detail of the fantasy-archetype swap-
ping 2-D puzzler is astounding. Whether
you are besting the ingenious traversal
challenges with the acrobatic thief, manip-
ulating the world with the magic of the
wizard or cutting through your foes with the
burly warrior, *Trine 2* delivers. It matches
its sumptuous visuals with clever challeng-
es and oodles of exploration.

GAMES



Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception (PS3) **Naughty Dog, T**

It is hard to top the cinematic archeology-
adventure of *Uncharted 2* when you want
to show non-gamers what marquee gam-
ing is all about. And *Uncharted 3* may not,
as a whole, accomplish that feat. *Drake's
Deception* travels leagues toward refining
its multi-player to and the single-player story
socks you square in the awe with a half
dozen stunning action set pieces. Saying
that the sequel to one of the top 10 games
of the past decade doesn't eclipse its ances-
tor but merely matches it is a bitter way to
describe this amazing game.

Let's round it up to 25

The 10 titles above are a small selection
of the field of excellence that made its
way to gamers all over the world. Creat-
ing a short list of this year's best is sure to
ignore some of the best work attached to a
gamepad in decades. If you want to check
out grade-A gaming then any of the below
should do you just fine:

Dead Island — A resort island full of zom-
bies? Yes please. Would it be awesomer
with velociraptors instead? YES PLEASE!
Minecraft — Is it an engineering simulator
or a blocky survival adventure?

Dark Souls — Dark fantasy masochism.
Renegade Ops — Vintage '80s top down
drive and gun mayhem.

LA Noire — Animation that claws its way
out of the uncanny valley and bourbon-
scented mystery.

InFamous 2 — Pew pew pew lightning
super powers in the Big Easy!

The Witcher 2: Assassin of Kings — *Sky-
rim* but slightly more brutal
Super Mario 3D Land — Yawn, another
perfect Mario platformer.

Terraria — *Minecraft* but in two
dimensions.

The Gunstringer — The only reason to
blow the dust off your Kinect.

Magicka — Four-player spell slinging
with an artful magic system.

PixelJunk Sidescroller — Vector graphics
bullet hell.

Trenched — Third-person action plus tow-
er defense in WW1.

You Don't Know Jack — Relentlessly
amusing trivia.

Dungeon Defenders — Third-person
action plus tower defense in a cartoon Fan-
tasyland that I may or may not have spent
55 shameful hours in.

For the record, purchasing all the titles in
this article, assuming you already have
the hardware, should only set you back
\$1,006. A grand well spent, I would say!

Bookish Delight

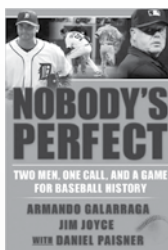
In a ripoff (imitation! flattery!) of a segment on the Pop Culture Happy Hour podcast from NPR (look for it on iTunes or find it via its host's blog at www.npr.org/blogs/monkeysee), I tip my hat to What's Making Me Happy This Week in the world of words, hoping readers will pick up on some recommendations and be inspired to share with friends their own Happy-Making things.

What made me happy this year in the world of books? In no particular order:

The continuation of Overlook Press's hardcover "Collector's Wodehouse" series, which included this past summer *The Gold Bat*, about cricket-playing youth at a fictional English academy. It was first published in 1904 and shows the great English comic novelist at the start of his long career. More installments are due in 2012.

The audiobook version of Tina Fey's *Bossypants*, read by the author. Some authors are good readers, some aren't; this is a case where hearing the material in her own voice makes it twice as good. I think it works that way with comedy in particular. It includes an audio clip of the Palin-Clinton sketch Fey did with Amy Poehler on *Saturday Night Live*.

The just-in-time-for-spring-training release of *Nobody's Perfect: Two Men, One Call, and a Game for Baseball History*, which recounts the perfect-but-not-perfect Detroit Tigers game of June 2, 2010. Armando Galarraga is pitching a perfect game but suddenly in the ninth inning, as everyone's sure he's about to seal the deal, umpire Jim Joyce makes a bad call, saying a runner is safe when he isn't, voiding the perfect. Although Joyce himself



says the call was bad, the baseball commissioner refuses to overturn it. Galarraga and Joyce alternate chapters, reflecting on that game and their careers. It's a story of two young men climbing their respective career ladders, being successful, each with a mom and a dad and a wife and a job and daily stuff that happens to include this baseball game. I'd totally forgive

you for assuming this book is just a case of someone capitalizing on a momentary news flash by churning out some shlock, but it isn't. It's a really good book, about real life and skill and making mistakes, and "Nobody's Perfect" is the perfect title for it.

The Archie comics collections that just keep coming: *Archie: The Best of Harry Lucey* (Vol. 1) and *Archie: The Best of Samm Schwartz* (Vol. 1), plus *Archie: The Best of Dan DeCarlo* (Vol. 2), all were released by IDW Publishing this year, while Dark Horse published the first three volumes of its Archie Archives series. These are hardcover color books good for the collector or the newbie. IDW also published *Archie's Joke Book, Vol. 1: A Celebration of Bob Montana Gags*, which is of special interest to Manchester readers as Bob Montana was a Central High grad. Keep an eye out for Archie's Sunday Best, also featuring Bob Montana's work, due out this coming spring. — Lisa Parsons

BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Libraries

- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Public Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St., 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.lib.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org
- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rogerslibrary.org
- **Tucker Free Library**
31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org

- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us
- **Wilton Public Library**
7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org

Bookstores

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 South Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961; bn.com
- **Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles**
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com
- **Gibson's Bookstore**
27 South Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **MainStreet Bookends**
16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **River Run Books**
20 Congress St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734, toadbooks.com

Other

- **Manchester Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org
- **New Hampshire Humanities Council**
19 Pillsbury St., Concord, 224-4071, www.nhcc.org
- **New Hampshire State Library**
20 Park St., Concord,

www.nh.gov/nhsl

- **New Hampshire Writers' Project**
SNHU, 2521 N. River Rd., Manchester, 314-7980, nhwritersproject.org
- **Rivier College**
420 Main St., Nashua, 888-1311, rivier.edu
- **UNH Manchester**
400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, unhm.unh.edu

Author events

- **MARY KATHRYN MACKLIN** will talk about her book *Women Fit at Fifty: A Guide for Living Long*, on Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord; on Tues., Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471; and on Wed., Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Concord City Library (books available for sale and signing at the event).
- **JOHN M. BARRY** will talk about his book *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul*, on Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.
- **HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.** will talk about his new book *Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History* on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers in the Loft series. Tickets to the event cost \$64 and include a reserved seat, book, bar beverage, the author presentation, Q&A and book-signing meet & greet. Tickets are available at the Music Hall box

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• **STEVEN R. CLOSS** will talk about his book *Willing Sacrifice: Granite State Valor during the American Civil War 1861-1865* on Tues., Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. in the Winchell Room of Manchester City Library. He'll talk about the contributions of the 2,000+ soldiers from NH who died in combat during the Civil War, and in particular the stories of the 157 soldiers from Manchester.

• **NH AUTHORS SERIES 2011-2012** at UNH in Durham takes place Sundays at 2 p.m. in the 5th-floor courtyard reading room of Dimond Library. Author interviews are followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Jan. 29: James Patrick Kelly, whose novel *Burn* won a 2007 Nebula Award and who has also won two Hugo awards. April 22: Rebecca Rule, regional storyteller and author of *Headin' for the Rhubarb! A New Hampshire Dictionary (well, kinda)*. Interviews are recorded for broadcast on NHPTV and for streaming online at www.nhptv.org/authors. The series is free and open to the public but seating is limited; to reserve a seat, visit www.library.unh.edu/friends or call 862-1540.

• **LOCAL AUTHORS NIGHT** on Thurs., Feb. 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Image Gallery at Nashua Public Library. Spend an evening chatting with local authors and getting their advice on what it would take to get your own book published. Light refreshments will be served. Authors who want to participate should sign up at www.tinyurl.com/npldiscussion by Jan. 31. Snow date is Wed., Feb. 29. Contact Carol at 589-4610 or carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org.

• **ERIK LARSON** will talk about his recent New York Times bestseller *In the Garden of Beasts* on Tues., May 8, at 7:30 p.m. at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers on a New England Stage series. Tickets to the event cost \$13 and are available at the box office, 436-2400 or www.themusichall.org. Copies of the book can be purchased in advance at the Music Hall box office. The producers ask patrons to support this series by purchasing their books through The Music Hall.

Lectures and discussions

• **EVEREST!** multimedia presentation by Craig John about his ascent of the North Ridge of Mt. Everest and his expeditions to Kilimanjaro, Denali and Cho Oyu, on Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public.

• **THE HUMAN SPIRIT: ADVENTURES AND CHALLENGES** program series at Amherst Town Library begins with a presentation by international climber and mountain guide Craig John (www.craigjohnclimbing.com) about his ascent of the North Ridge of Mt. Everest on Tues., Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. The events in this program series are free and open to the public but registration is required due to space limitations; call the library or visit the website. Next up is a presentation on Homer's *Odyssey* on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.; Denali Delmar's *No-Knead Miracle Bread Workshop* on Tues., Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m.; "What Endures," a discussion series led by Emily Archer on Wed., Jan. 18, Tues., Jan. 31, and Wed., Feb. 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; "Add-

ing Years to Your Life and Life to Your Years: A Roadmap to Enhance Longevity and Wellness" on Tues., Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.; "It's Not About the Hike" on Tues., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.; and Exploring America's Tackiest Tourist Photos with humorist Darren Garnick on Tues., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m.

• **WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?** Ethicist Jim Litchman will discuss ethics and the stories in his book, *What Do You Stand For?*, on Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the NHTI Library Living Room. The event is free and open to the public.

• **SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) SEMINAR** for adults begins Jan. 12 at Congregation Betenu in Amherst. There will be 10 weekly meetings, on Thursdays, between 7 and 8:30 p.m. Each session will stand alone, and the public is invited to come to the whole series or just individual sessions of interest. No pre-registration is needed, but RSVP is appreciated. The seminar will be led by Raphael Colb, an English teacher at Hebrew University. Contact Rahel at 554-1459 or betenu@nii.net for info or to RSVP.

• **TRAVEL TO CHINA: FROM PREPARATION TO IMMERSION** presented by photographer and tour operator Richard Ferland on Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). The talk, illustrated with slides, will cover topics from planning a trip to how to mingle with the locals. Free and open to the public. Ferland will also give his presentation on Mon., Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Concord Public Library.

• **HAUNTED LIGHTHOUSES OF NEW ENGLAND** presented by Jeremy D'Entremont on Thurs., Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library. Free and open to the public. D'Entremont's books will be available for purchase and signing at the presentation.

• **STONE WALLS OF NEW ENGLAND** presented by actor, author and NHPR producer Kevin Gardner on Thurs., Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Gardner explores the cultural and historical significance of New England's stone walls as he constructs a model wall using small stones on a table. Free and open to the public.

• **WILD TURKEYS** discussion of the natural history, habits and habitats of the eastern wild turkey, presented by Mark Ellingwood of NH Fish and Game on Thurs., Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public, but register at tinyurl.com/npllectures.

• **NH TO ARGENTINA BY MOTORCYCLE** presented by Ben Slavin, who rode from his Hooksett home to the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia, Argentina, on Thurs., Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public. See Slavin's blog at www.afewwomemiles.com.

• **THE 2012 FRAUD: MISREADING THE MAYA AND THEIR CALENDARS** presented by R.P. Hale on Thurs., Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public.

Book discussions

• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** hosts monthly book discussions. Everyone

BOOKS

is welcome to come for all or any of the dates. All discussion titles are 25% off until the date of their discussion. All meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. Jan. 2, *Country of the Pointed Firs*, by Sarah Orne Jewett. Feb. 6, Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. March 5, *The Master*, by Colm Toibin. April 2, *Evidence*, by Mary Oliver. May 7, *Freedom*, by Jonathan Franzen. June 4, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, by Jennifer Egan.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Jan. 12: *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, by Geraldine Brooks. Feb. 9: *The Lace Reader*, by Brunonia Berry. March 8: *Cleopatra: A Life*, by Stacy Schiff. April 12: *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese. May 10: *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Bring a bag lunch and plan on an enjoyable time. Jan. 31: *Bonfire of the Vanities*, by Tom Wolfe. Feb. 28, *The Invisible Wall: A Love Story That Broke Barriers*, by Harry Bernstein. March 27: *Galileo's Daughter*, by Dava Sobel. April 24: *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein. May 29: *The Thirteenth Tale*, by Diane Setterfield. June 26: *Very Valentine*, by Adriana Trigiani.

• **NASHUA NOVEL READERS** group meets monthly on a Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Music/Art/Media wing of the Nashua Public Library. New members welcome. Thurs., Jan. 12, the group will discuss *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Call Carol at 589-4610 for details about December and February meetings.

• **POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY** non-fiction book club meets on the first Thurs. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Pollard Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass. Thurs., Jan. 5, discussing *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli.

Other

• **PLAY DATE NH** Ages 12 – 18 are invited to learn and play new card, strategy and board games in the Winchell Room of Manchester City Library on Thurs., Dec. 29, from 4 to 8 p.m.; on Thurs., Jan. 12, from 4 to 6 p.m., and on Thurs., Feb. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Semi-professional gaming geeks will be on hand to mentor new players in an array of classic and modern games.

• **BOOK SALE** on Sat., Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Winchell Room of Manchester City Library. Bring your own bag to fill with items for \$5 per bag.

• **FEMNOIRE: THE WOMEN'S PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL** will be held on March 30 & 31 at The Whistler House Museum of Art's Parker Gallery stage in downtown Lowell, Mass. The festival is produced by Lowell's Image Theater. Organizers are seeking 10-minute plays or monologues, limit two submissions per playwright. Submissions can be made by e-mail attachment to producer Ann Garvin at Anngarvin4@aol.com or to Jerry Bisantz at jbisantz@comcast.net; deadline for submissions is Jan. 21. Visit www.imagetheater.com.

FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ

So many sequels, so few Milk Duds

2011 and the Deathly Hallows — Part 1: On Stranger Tides in 3D



Super 8



The Descendants

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hipppopress.com

Harry Potter, Pirate Johnny Depp, the dudes from the *Hangover*, those vampire kids — sequels, franchise reboots and adaptations of comic books of varying levels of popularity filled the screens this year. Some were great (*X-Men: First Class*), some were disappointing (*Cars 2*), some got the job done even if they didn't set the world ablaze with their awesomeness (*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows — Part 2*).

Of course, in many cases it was the fresh ideas that really brought something new to 2011 (i.e. Hollywood's discovery that women — who can drive now and also make their own money! — will actually pay money to see smart funny women on the big screen). Here are my picks for the best, worst and most entertaining movies of 2011.

Best animated film: *Arthur Christmas*. I wasn't expecting to enjoy this Aardman movie about Santa Claus and the quest to bring a gift to a forgotten child but I did thanks to the smart mix of holiday caper and British humor.

Worst animated film: *Gnomeo & Juliet*. I applaud the idea of making cartoons based on Shakespeare films but even my then-10-year-old stepson thought this movie was, as he put it, kinda stupid. **Runner Up:** *Rango*. Just because Johnny Depp is in something doesn't automatically make it good (see also: *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*).

Most disappointing animated film: *Cars 2/The Adventures of Tintin*. In both cases, excellent filmmakers (Pixar, and Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson, respectively) turned in forgettable movies.

Best use of 3-D: *A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas* / *The Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. And I'm going to bet that that's the only time you see these two movies sharing a category. The latest Harold & Kumar movie used 3-D but also poked fun at the gratuitous use of 3-D that seemed to be everywhere this year. *The Cave of Forgotten Dreams*, a documentary about some of the oldest known cave paintings in Europe, used it to bring the ancient human past to life.

Worst use of 3-D: *Glee — The 3D Concert Movie*. Though the movie actually did manage to remind me of what was once (once) so much fun about *Glee*, the 3-D was completely unnecessary.

Best romantic comedy: *Crazy, Stupid, Love*. It might be stretching

the definition a bit to call this multi-generational story of the joys and pains of love, centered around the break-up of Steve Carell's marriage to Julianne Moore, a typical "rom-com." But it did feature romance (including a very cute relationship between Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling) and comedy (Gosling trying to teach Carell how to man up) as well as some nice family drama.

Worst romantic comedy: All of the rest of them. But specifically: *No Strings Attached*, *I Don't Know How She Does It* and *Something Borrowed*.

Best romance: *Jane Eyre*. Not a comedy but jam-packed full of old-fashioned gothic romance, this year's adaptation of *Jane Eyre* featured a plucky new Jane in Mia Wasikowska and a dreamy Rochester in Michael Fassbender.

Best movie about The Times We Live in: *Margin Call*. This movie about the early days of the financial meltdown makes you want to cut up your credit cards and only pay cash for everything. Likewise ... **Runner-up:** *Contagion*, which makes you too afraid to leave the theater considering how many door handles you'd have to touch.

Worst movie about The Times We Live in: *The Ides of March*. Ryan Gosling and George Clooney underwhelm in this dull movie about the seamy side of politics.

Best raunchy comedy: *Bridesmaids*. Girls can tell dirty sex jokes! And engage in gross-out bathroom humor! No, really! This movie (which isn't a romantic comedy, as the central story is really about

friendship) was smart and fun and sweet and proved that people will indeed see movies with women.

Worst raunchy comedy: *The Hangover II*. I can see you laughing and I understand intellectually that a joke has been told but I just don't get it.

Best superhero movie: *X-Men: First Class*. It's a superhero and a reboot of a franchise but this *X-Men* was a delight, with an excellent portrayal of the Professor X/Magneto relationship thanks to James McAvoy and avenging hottie Michael Fassbender. **Runner up:** *Captain America: The First Avenger*. Captured the spirit of adventure and the tone of an old-school comic book.

Worst superhero movie: *Green Lantern* / *Thor*. In both cases, all I really remember about these movies was how much I was annoyed with them.

Best total cheeseball movie: *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1*. Horrible acting? Ridiculous make-up? Goof-tastic story? Yes, yes and yes! But so fun! **Runner-up:** *Fast Five*. Cars go fast zoom zoom!

Worst total cheeseball movie: *Abduction* / *Conan the Barbarian*. In both cases, proof that well-toned abs cannot make up for a lack of good acting, story, script, etc.

Best performance in a mediocre movie: Viola Davis in *The Help*. My feeling about the mov-

Best

10. Win Win. Another nice performance from Paul Giamatti as a family man slowly heading under water.

9. The Muppets / Winnie the Pooh Two solid movies reviving beloved kid-friendly characters.

8. Conan O'Brien Can't Stop A look behind the scenes at Team Coco.

7. Beginners / Midnight in Paris Movies for grown-ups! The former is an exceptionally sweet story of a father (Christopher Plummer) and son (Ewan McGregor); the latter is Woody Allen's love letter to Paris and the 1920s American expat writers.

6. Rise of the Planet of the Apes. Another excellent Andy Serkis performance and a solid sci-fi movie.

5. Jane Eyre. Sure, this Jane seems suspiciously blonde, but the movie breathes new life into the story.

4. X-Men: First Class. A bromance as well as a great action-adventure

and a good reboot of the franchise.

3. Young Adult. I deeply heart this Diablo Cody-penned tale of a woman in her late 30s who has refused to mature past age 16. Charlize Theron seems to have the time of her life playing such a wickedly vile woman.

2. The Descendants. George Clooney makes this Alexander Payne tale of family drama a delight.

1. Super 8. No, I know, this is totally playing on my *E.T./Goonies* nostalgia. But I give; it works.

Honorable Mentions: Paul — Simon Pegg and Nick Frost give geeks their due in this alien movie that also features two fun supporting roles for Kristin Wiig and Jason Bateman.

Cedar Rapids — Ed Helms is again in an office setting but this time shines as a small-time insurance agent let loose in the big city of Cedar Rapids.

Worst

10. Footloose. Stop with the unnecessary remakes.

9. Happy Feet 2 / Rango / Gnomeo & Juliet / Mars Needs Moms / Hop. These animated (or in the case of *Hop*, partially animated) movies were often glum, dull, shrill, too reference-heavy and/or just no darn fun.

8. The Smurfs / Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. There is not enough Tylenol in the world.

7. The Hangover Part II Men behaving badly, badly.

6. Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides / Transformers: Dark of the Moon These franchises have served their purpose; now let them fade away, please.

5. Arthur / Your Highness. Horrible shrill humor-free comedy.

4. I Am Number Four / Beastly. No amount of wanting something to be "the next *Twilight*" can make it so.

3. Sanctum / Season of the Witch These two early 2011 movies (the

first about divers trapped in an underground cave; the second about the questionable career choices of Nicolas Cage) are an example of why the first three months of any new year can be a difficult time for movie-goers.

2. No Strings Attached / I Don't Know How She Does It / Something Borrowed Whether it's chick flicks or romantic comedies, it's time to stop making the same old high-heels-and-lip-gloss, women-punishing nonsense and MAKE SOMETHING ELSE. (I know you can do it, Hollywood. I watch great woman-lead comedy and drama all the time on television.)

1. Atlas Shrugged: Part 1 Any and all actors here could be replaced with cardboard cutouts and it wouldn't change the tone or emotional resonance of the movie. Shouldn't the invisible hand of the free market prevent Part 2 from ever seeing the light of day?

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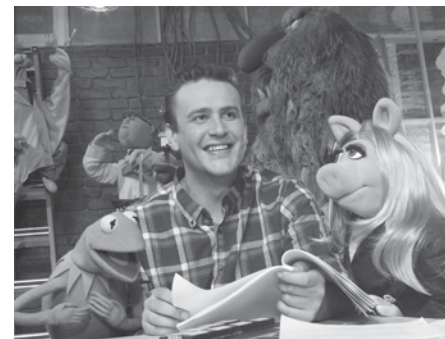
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POP CULTURE:

FILM Continued



Jane Eyre



The Muppets



Rise of the Planet of the Apes



Beginners



Young Adult



X-Men: First Class

ie *The Help* — its story, its cutesiness, its handling of race — is solidly in “meh” territory. But Davis (along with Octavia Spencer, Emma Stone, Jessica Chastain and Bryce Dallas Howard) turned in one heck of a great performance. Further evidence that this woman needs her own show already.

Mediocre performance in a solid movie: Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol*. The movie really starred all of its cool special effects; Cruise, who is a fairly unmagnetic, uninspiring action hero, was not terribly necessary.

Best super-pretty movie about life and sadness: *Melancholia*. A planet but also deep depression threatens to crush the world. Stick it out through the slow build of the early section about Kirstin Dunst’s wedding to Alexander Skarsgard and the movie will grow on you.

Worst super-pretty movie about life and sadness: *The Tree of Life*. It’s about childhood in the 1950s but also the strains on a marriage and death and the dinosaurs and the end of life on earth and Sean Penn and also, nothing.

Best horror film: *Insidious / Tucker & Dale vs. Evil*. Both of these movies offer laughs as well as scares. The former is a great haunting movie. The latter is a smart take on the “college kids go camping in the woods” setup.

Really good horror film: *The Thing / Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark*. The latter offers another creepy tale of a young girl’s encounter with malicious fairy tale creatures from Guillermo del Toro. The former

plays with the fear of the unknown in the barren wasteland of the South Pole.

Pretty good franchise horror film: *Paranormal Activity 3*. Miraculously, this third film stays true to the story of the first two films and adds a fun new element. **Runners-up:** *Final Destination 5 / Scream 4*. Both of these do their franchises proud and reminded me of what was best about the respective series.

Worst horror film: *Red State*. Answering the question “will Kevin Smith make a good horror movie?” with a resounding “no.”

Best ’80s revival film: *Super 8*. JJ Abrams presents Steven Spielberg with this thank-you card of a movie about a boy, his buddies and an alien.

Worst ’80s revival film: *Footloose*. I suspect even a cloying *Glee* special episode based on *Footloose* would have been a fresher update than this movie.

The “Paaahk the Caaah in Haaah-vaahd Yaaahd” award for worst accent: Leonardo DiCaprio in *J. Edgar*. As if this movie didn’t have enough problems, the approximation of the Hoover accent kept you from ever once losing yourself in the story.

Note: As always there are a few of this year’s films I haven’t been able to see yet. That list includes War Horse, The Iron Lady, The Artist, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy and Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close.

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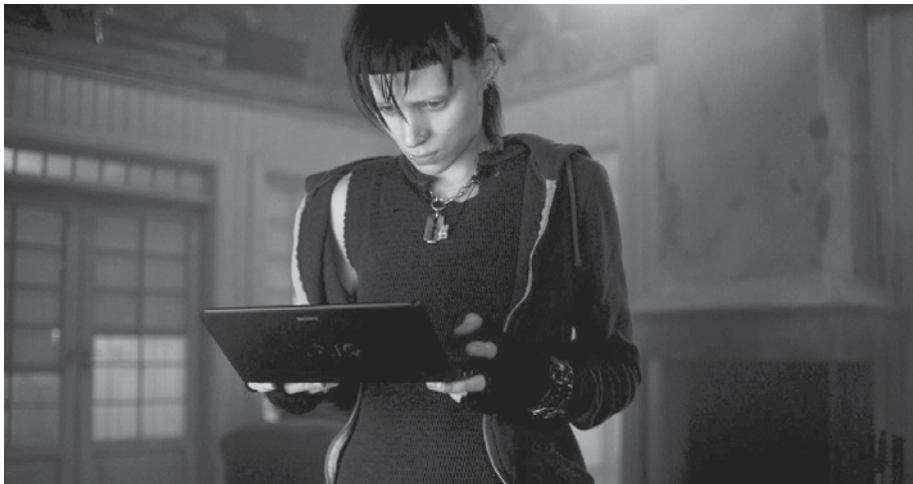
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The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R)

A mere two years after an adaptation of the first of the crazy-popular Stieg Larsson novels hit international screens, America gets its own version of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

For those who haven't read the books or seen the trilogy of Swedish movies (the last of which I'm pretty sure I saw in 2010), *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is the story of two investigators, each with personal problems, who eventually come together to solve a decades-old mystery. Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig) is a well-known journalist who has just been convicted of libel (in the Swedish movies this comes with a jail sentence; here it's presented more as a lawsuit situation) for a story he did on a well-known businessman. Blomkvist suspects that his conclusions about the nefarious character of the man are correct but his evidence for the story turned out to be bogus. He is now faced with the loss of his life savings, his professional credibility and his job, since he feels the only way to potentially save his newsmagazine, *Millennium*, is to quit it. This also means leaving the regular company of colleague Erika Berger (Robin Wright), his long-time lover (she's married, he's divorced, they tryst occasionally — hey, it's Europe).

Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) is a slight, 23-year-old girl who has had a tough life. She has been institutionalized and is still a ward of the state, though her current case worker is a kind man who is helping her to live her own life. She works as an investigator, specializing in computer investigations (i.e. hacking). Though she is brusque and tough — all decked out in piercings, ink and leather — she is a fair person with a strong sense of justice. Unfortunately, her case worker has a stroke and she finds herself answering to a new man, Bjurman (Yorick van Wageningen), a sadist and a predator. He uses his state-given abilities to control her money to force her into some very rated-R unwanted sexual contact. After a particularly brutal assault, Lisbeth decides to strike back.

Salander and Blomkvist meet at first only on paper. She does a background check on him for Henrik Vagner (Christopher Plummer), an aging industrialist. Vagner wants Blomkvist to come to his home on an island in northern Sweden and investigate the death of his much-loved niece Harriet (Moa

Garpendal), who vanished from the island during a family gathering decades earlier. Henrick is convinced that it was one of his own family members (whose number includes drunkards, meanies and former Nazis) who caused her death. Blomkvist decides to take the job, in part because Vagner promises to give him info — info that will stand up in court this time — on the dirty businessman who just sued Blomkvist for libel. At first, the long-past case seems hopeless, but once he finds a lead to new evidence, he asks to bring on an assistant, and who better than the woman — Salander — who just investigated him?

And, hey, what says "holiday season movie" better than a story filled with murder, Nazis and violent sexual assault?

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is very R-rated. Perhaps because the Swedish version allowed me to view all the brutality through the haze of subtitles, the story (which was pretty darn dark in that first movie as well as in the book) seems even more graphically violent here. The movie never turns away from an awful thing, whether it is mangled bodies or gruesome acts. "Shocking" isn't quite the right way to describe it since I knew what was coming. But it makes the horror all the more present — again, perhaps a result of not having to give half your attention to reading the dialogue on the screen. It makes the story much more disturbing but it also makes the disturbing stuff the highlight instead of the context.

And that first movie, despite its own graphic scenes, had a beach-read kind of entertaining quality. The old-fashioned mystery at its heart made it compelling despite its flaws. (The crime takes place on an island, making it sort of a locked room mystery. The investigating is very much an old-school affair — photographs, ancient records, the memories of potentially unreliable family members.) It's hard to pinpoint whether the fact that I'm so familiar with the story is why I didn't find that here or some other flaw of this particular movie. But the darkness, rather than the puzzle, seems more in the forefront in this film.

Now let me state here that I am completely aware of the fact that the most annoying guy at the cocktail party is the one who goes on and on about how the British version of *The Office* is so vastly superior to the American one. Sure, both shows grew from the same seed but each has become its own individual work of art. I want to be able to judge this *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* apart from the previous version, without always

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POP CULTURE:

FILM Continued



We Bought a Zoo

falling back on comparison. But it's difficult. I just saw the Swedish version — just saw the sequels in the last probably 18 or so months. And I'm guessing that a lot of the people who would tend to seek this movie out will have seen that version as well. These were hugely popular books, and the movies got massive international play. While this version tinkers with some of the facts, it is the same story as that previous version.

Which isn't to say there are no differences. This being an American, English-language movie, we have accents instead of people speaking Swedish. And, instead of the doughy, wrinkly portrayal of Blomkvist from the Swedish movies, we have the svelte Craig. He de-Blomkvists the Blomkvist character. The Swedish portrayal was a bit closer to the image I built from the book — a smart but ordinary-ish middle-aged man who got all the chicks mostly because he was a thinly veiled take on Larsson and who isn't going to make himself irresistible when writing a book where he is essentially the star? Here, women want him because he looks like Daniel Craig.

Mara is a little better at making Lisbeth a character who, though essentially the same as Noomi Rapace's character, offers a slightly different take on the same material. Rapace's Salander is harder, colder, tougher. Mara — and some tweaks to the story — make this Lisbeth's vulnerability more apparent.

And there I go, unable to think about this movie except in terms of comparison.

So, I give: this *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* did not quite grab me as that earlier version did. It is slicker, sleeker and edgier but it loses some of the puzzle-ness that made that movie so engrossing. **B-**

Rated R — no kidding — for brutal violent content including rape and torture, strong sexuality, graphic nudity and language. Directed by David Fincher with a screenplay by Stephen Zaillian, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is two hours and 40 minutes long and is distributed by Sony Pictures.

We Bought a Zoo (PG)

A widower moves his two children out to the country and buys a zoo in *We Bought a Zoo*, a decently entertaining story bogged down by a whole lot of syrupy sentimentality.

Writer Benjamin Mee (Matt Damon) is barely holding his family together after the death of his wife less than a year ago. His young daughter Rosie (Maggie Elizabeth

Jones) is sad and his 14-year-old son Dylan (Colin Ford) is full of anger and rebellion, most of which comes out in various stunts getting him suspended from school. After his fourth such incident, he's expelled and Benjamin decides the whole family needs a new start. He passes on several standard suburban homes but finds himself enchanted by a house out in the country — "nine miles from the nearest Target" is how everyone describes it. There are, however, complications, the real estate agent (J. B. Smoove) tells Benjamin. The house isn't just the house but also the 18 acres of land, which includes a zoo filled with endangered animals. The state took the property over and has been maintaining the animals but a contingency of the sale is that the new owner makes it a working zoo again.

Naturally, Benjamin is not so keen on this zoo business.

However, he sees his daughter happily befriending the peacocks and he decides oh heck why not? Rosie is delighted but Dylan, like teenagers everywhere, decides this change will RUIN his WHOLE LIFE. Nonetheless, to the zoo it is for the Mee family.

The zoo comes not only with animals but with people including zookeeper Kelly Foster (Scarlett Johansson) and her young niece Lily (Elle Fanning), who is 13 and being homeschooled while she works at the zoo.

So maybe things aren't as bad for Dylan as they seemed at first.

Like all quixotic ventures, the zoo requires Benjamin to shell out way more money than planned and his career as a journalist did not really prepare him for all the facets of zoo ownership. And then there are the family relationships. Though Rosie is happier, Dylan is still king mope and Benjamin himself is having a hard time really moving on from the death of his wife.

The land the zoo sits on is very pretty and you understand how someone — particularly someone hungry to make a dramatic life change — could become infatuated with it. The zoo itself — like a vineyard or a restaurant or a theater or any other "becomes your whole life" endeavor — is also enchanting: "We'll live on the zoo and the children will get in touch with nature and in all the fence-mending and barn-painting there will be no time for juvenile delinquency." And the running of the zoo makes for an interesting story full of details you're unlikely to run across elsewhere. Which is all to say that *We Bought a Zoo* has good bones.

POP CULTURE:

Where the movie gets bogged down is in its heavy thick syrupy suffocating sentimentality. I can live with the cutesy zoo stuff — the quirky employees, the animal humor, the mild flirtation between Benjamin and Kelly. But the sad music and the sun-dappled flashbacks on Benjamin's dead wife and the constant "I don't know how to relate to my son" speeches are very much too much. A bit of this with a lot of details (slapsticky, sad, whatever) about how a zoo comes together would have worked much better. These are basically likeable characters and the story is not the campy *Mr.*

Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org
 • *The Descendants* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 29, through Mon., Jan. 2, 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Tues., Jan. 3, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.
 • *Melancholia* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 29, 2 & 7 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 30, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 31, at 2 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 1, at 2 & 7 p.m.
 • *Young Adult* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 29, through Mon., Jan. 2, at 1:05, 3:10, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Tues., Jan. 3, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 2:05, 5:35 & 7:45 p.m.
 • *Metropolis* (1927) Sat., Dec. 31, at 7 p.m.
 • *The Premier Primary* (NR) interviews and news reels about the NH Primary, followed by discussion, on Mon., Jan. 2, and Tues., Jan. 3, at 7 p.m.
 • *Primary Watch Party* See the results with international journalists, Tues., Jan. 10, at 6 p.m.
 • *Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., Jan. 17, at 6 p.m.
 • *More Than a Month* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., Feb. 21, at 6 p.m.
 • *Hell and Back Again* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., April 17, at 6 p.m.
 • *Strong* a feature film from the PBS Series Independent Lens, on Tues., May 15, at 6 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton, wilton-townhalltheatre.com
 • *Like Crazy* (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.
 • *Hugo* (PG, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 29, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., Jan. 1, at 2 p.m.
 • *The Skin I Live In* (R, 2011) Fri., Dec. 30, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Plus Sun., Jan. 1, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
 • *When Harry Met Sally* (1989) Sat., Dec. 31, at 4:30 p.m.
 • *The Circus* (1928), a film starring Charlie Chaplin, Sun., Jan. 1, at 4:30 p.m.

FRANCO-AMERICAN CENTRE

Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, www.francoamericancentrenh.com
 • Cinema Mardi, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Film in French with English subtitles.
 • *Incendies* (R, 2010) on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.
 • *Heartbreaker* (G, 2010) on Tues., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.

• *L'Auberge Espagnole* (R, 2002) on Tues., March 20, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
 • *The Man with the Movie Camera* (1929) Tues., Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. Silent film with live musical accompaniment.
 • *The Music Never Stopped* (2011) Wed., Jan. 4, at 1 p.m.
 • *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 11, at 1 p.m.
 • *Water World* (PG-13, 1995) Wed., Jan. 18, at 1 p.m.
 • *The Adjustment Bureau* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 25, at 1 p.m.
 • *The Conspirator* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.
 • *The Kiss* (1929) silent film with musical accompaniment, Tues., Feb. 7, at 6 p.m.
 • *Rocky* (PG, 1976) Wed., Feb. 8, at 1 p.m.
 • *Time Traveler's Wife* (PG-13, 2009) Wed., Feb. 14, at 1 p.m.
 • *The Pelican Brief* (PG-13, 1993) Wed., Feb. 15, at 1 p.m.
 • *Back to the Future* (PG, 1985) Wed., Feb. 22, at 1 p.m.
 • *Family Movie Afternoon* Mon., Feb. 27, at 2 p.m.
 • *African Cats* (G, 2011) Wed., Feb. 29, at 1 p.m.
 • *Hangman's House* (1928) silent film with live musical accompaniment, Tues., March 6, at 6 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
 • *Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows* (PG-13, 2011) Fri., Dec. 30, at 3 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
 • *Soul Surfer* (PG, 2011) Wed., Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.

NHTI

Sweeney Auditorium, 31 College Drive, Concord, 271-7185, www.nhti.edu
 • *Friday Night Film Series*, Fri., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.
 • *Friday Night Film Series*, Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-970-4120, www.pollardml.org
 • Independent film night on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Films are not rated.

Popper's Penguins-style joke barrage that I was expecting. But the constant effort on the part of the movie to jerk tears from the audience feels false and unappealing.

We Bought a Zoo is a decent effort at producing a family-friendly dramady, but it would benefit from a serious dialing down of its melodrama. **C+**

Rated PG for language and some thematic elements. Directed by Cameron Crowe and written by Cameron Crowe and Aline Brosh McKenna (from the book by Benjamin Mee), We Bought a Zoo is two hours and four minutes long and distributed by 20th Century Fox.

• *Karen Cries on the Bus* (NR, 2011) Thurs., Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusic hall.org. Some of these films are being screened at Music Hall Loft, at 131 Congress St. See website for details.
 • *Martha Marcy May Marlene* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 29, and Fri., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.
 • *Dolphin Tale* (PG, 2011) Tues., Dec. 27, through Fri., Dec. 30, at 1 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyportmovies.com
 • *Into the Abyss* (NR, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 30, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 31, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 1, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 2, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m.
 • *Another Happy Day* (R, 2011) Fri., Jan. 6, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 7, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 8, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 9, through Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m.
 • *The Big Year* (PG, 2011) Fri., Jan. 13, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 14, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 15, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 16, through Thurs., Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m.
 • *The Mill and The Cross* (NR, 2011) Fri., Jan. 20, at 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 21, at 4:45, 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 22, at 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 23, through Thurs., Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m.
 • *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (R, 2011) Fri., Jan. 27, through Thurs., Feb. 9: Fridays at 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Saturdays at 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sundays at 4:45 & 7:30 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

THE COLONIAL THEATRE

95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, www.thecolonial.org
 • *Martha Marcy May Marlene* (PG-13, 2011) Mon., Jan. 2, through Thurs., Jan. 6, at 7 p.m.

OTHER

• *GOING BLIND, GOING FORWARD* on Sat., Jan. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Huggins Hospital Medical Arts Education Center, 240 S. Main St. in Wolfeboro. Free admission; call 569-7507 to reserve a seat.

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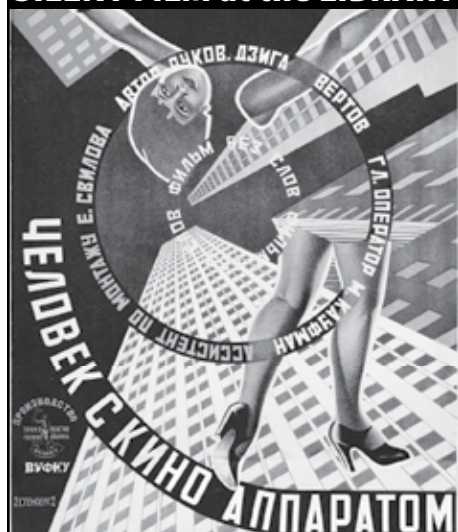


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HIPPO NITE

Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Cowpunk:** Listening to Girls Guns and Glory, it's easy to understand why fans of X and the Pixies keep Lyle Lovett and Dwight Yoakam records in their collections. Music's a big river, there's room for many boats. Speaking of "Big River," this Boston-based band loves them some Johnny Cash and Hank Williams, with a tribute show to Hank Sr. set for a few days after their Manch Vegas gig. See Girls Guns and Glory on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 9 p.m. at The Shaskeen, 909 Elm St. in Manchester. See www.girlsgunsandglory.com.

• **Kids rock:** Rather than compete with Saturday's 21-and-up crowd, the Sad Café decided to ring in the New Year a day early with an all-ages show that includes Jessica Prouty Band, Closer Than We Appear, Blacklight Sunrise and Left Hand Blue. Melodic rocker Prouty and her mates enjoyed a good 2011, touring in California, getting lots of airplay and awards along the way. Attend Bring In The New Bash on Friday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at Sad Café, 148 Plaistow Road in Plaistow. Tickets are \$10; go to www.thesadcafe.com.

• **Get a laugh on:** Comedy looks to become a regular attraction at Epping's Holy Grail Pub. The first show in late November did turn-away business. Two Boston comics who've shared stages with the likes of Lewis Black, Stephen Wright and Lenny Clarke headline at the church turned restaurant, bar and entertainment complex. See Dave Andrews and Jimmy "PJ" Walsh on Friday, Dec. 30, at 8:30 p.m. at The Holy Grail, 64 Main St. in Epping. Tickets are \$15 each or two for \$25, with seating limited to 100. Call 679-9559.

• **Empire stage:** A New York band with a brazen attitude tops a lengthy bill for an early evening Manchester show. Pop-punk rockers Still Rings True have a forthright sound and a DIY ethic, and are currently in the middle of several winter shows with the equally committed Maker. Rounding out the bill are Shot Heard Around The World, Up For Grabs and four others. See Still Rings True and Maker on Sunday, Jan. 1, at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.) at Rocko's Bar and Grill, 253 Wilson St. in Manchester. Tickets are \$10 at www.imthirstyentertainment.com.

• **Dance in the new:** Leading with mimosas and quiche, the dinner menu for the Queen City Ballroom's 2012 kickoff dance party sounds suspiciously like brunch. Perhaps it's expected that many attendees will sleep during New Year's Day, and wake ready for dancing to a DJ spinning new and old classics as the night falls — a workable plan indeed. Attend the "NOT a New Year's Eve" Party on Sunday, Jan. 1, at 6 p.m. at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St. in Manchester. Advance tickets are \$15. To purchase, call 622-1500.

New Year's Eve on the town

Dozens of ways to say hello to 2012

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

New Year's Eve arrives on a Saturday, and since the official day off for most folks is Monday, that allows two full days of recovery. With that in mind, here are dozens of ways to greet the new year:

• **Alan's** (133 N. Main St. in Boscawen, 753-6631) hosts the Vintage Band playing vintage rock & roll from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. There is no cover for music; it's \$19.99 for buffet shrimp, lobster, prime rib, chicken and a champagne toast.

• **Alpine Grove** (19 S. Depot Road in Hollis, 882-9051) has a Renaissance-themed buffet (\$40 per person) with a DJ providing music and a midnight toast. The party starts at 6 p.m.

• **Amber Room** (53 High St. in Nashua, 881-9060) DJ Danjah & DJ Lou play high-energy dance music at this upscale nightspot (proper dress required). Doors open at 8 p.m., and you must be 18 to enter, 21 to drink.

• **Asian Breeze** (1328 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, 621-9298) The Groove Cats play rock & roll from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. There's no cover and a midnight toast.

• **Backstage Bar & Grill** (56 Canal St. in Nashua, 598-8256) Mindset X plays original rock and covers for this Nashua night spot's first ever New Year's Eve party.

• **Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro** (89 Lake St. in Laconia, 524-0008) has a Black and White themed party (\$5 per person) that runs from 9 p.m. to midnight, with a champagne toast and party favors.

• **Barley House** (132 N. Main St. in Concord, 228-6363) celebrates the new year with a complimentary toast of Miller High Life, the champagne of bottled beers, capping a night that includes DJ music.

• **Black Brimmer** (1087 Elm St. in Manchester, 669-5523) The New Year's Eve Midnight Masquerade (\$10, 21+) includes complimentary midnight toast, special menu and featured drink specials. VIP packages are available; doors open at 6 p.m.

• **Blue Mermaid Island Grill** (The hill at Hanover and High streets in Portsmouth, 427-2583) at 9 p.m. Sub Navy Roamers take the stage, with dinner specials and a champagne toast (\$10 cover).

• **Boston Billiard Club** (55 Northeastern Blvd. in Nashua, 943-5630) DJ Alika spins dance music. It's a Black and White party — wear black and white and save on the cover charge.

• **Boynton's Taproom** (155 Dow St. in Manchester, 623-7778) Spend New Year's Eve with Manchester's very own Dueling Pianos. \$50 admission includes Van Otis chocolate fountain, champagne toast at midnight, hat & noisemaker.

• **Breezeway Pub** (14 Pearl St. in Manchester, 621-9111) Fans of Sirius XM's BPM channel will enjoy DJ McKay's High NRG Dance Factory, with food selections and noisemakers for midnight at this 21+ gay & alternative bar.

• **Brookstone Grille & Event Center** (14

Route 11 E. in Derry, 328-9250/3289255) Swing and laugh into the new year from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. with Get Down Tonight Entertainment and North Shore Comedy. Tables of six persons and more are available, tickets \$69.95 per person (includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet, tax, gratuity and entertainment); reservations required.

• **Cannon Mountain View** (729 Main St. in Franconia, 823-9577) Holmes perform funk, R&B and groove music to ring in New Year 2012.

• **Castaways** (209 Ocean Blvd. in Seabrook, 760-7500)

New Year's Eve bash includes a buffet from 10 p.m. 'til midnight, champagne toast, raffle prizes and DJ music. \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door.

• **Chapangas** (168 Elm St. in Milford, 249-5214) helps you get blinded by science at an '80s party with a special menu for \$59.95 a couple that includes appetizers, entrée, salad, dessert, champagne toast and party favor. A karaoke DJ plays '80s hits.

• **Cheers** (17 Depot St. in Concord, 228-0810) takes a different approach, offering Team Trivia with a \$200 top prize, party favors and champagne at midnight.

• **Chop Shop Bar & Grill** (920 Lafayette Road in Seabrook, 760-7704) Catch Drop Zone on the main stage and Country Mile in the Saloon; a \$20 cover includes dinner and breakfast buffet, midnight toast and favors.

• **Circle 9 Ranch** (Windymere Drive in Epsom, 736-9656) presents the Gala Happy Time Squares New Year's Eve Square Dance (\$8 in advance, \$10 at the door) with a potluck dinner at 7 p.m. followed by Bob Butler calling Mainstream/Plus/A1 tips and Bernie Porter cueing the rounds from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Door prizes, 50/50 raffle, party favors, and a sparkling toast at midnight round out the evening.

• **City Sports Grille & Spare Time** (216 Maple St. in Manchester, 625-9656) It's a Galactic Bowling Party for \$20 per person, \$35 per couple, that includes music, light show, party favors and surprises all night long.

• **Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern** (176 Mammoth Road in Londonderry, 437-2022) Steve Tolley provides musical entertainment from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Dinner from 4 to 10 p.m. with a limited menu (no call-aheads or reservations).

• **Common Man** (88 Range Road in Windham, 898-0088) Karen Grenier plays original songs and soft rock covers to ring in 2012.

• **Crowne Plaza Hotel** (Somerset Parkway in Nashua, 886-1200) On Line performs and there's a champagne toast at midnight and a breakfast buffet, all of which follows a sumptuous meal — \$219/person and room packages are available.

• **Derryfield Country Club** (625 Mammoth Road in Manchester, 623-2880) Area



favorites Last Kid Picked kicks it off at 9 p.m. \$20/person covers party favors and champagne toast.

• **Dolphin Striker** (15 Bow St. in Portsmouth, 431-5222) Bob Arens plays jazz and Tin Pan Alley tunes, with a champagne toast at midnight (no cover, seating priority for restaurant diners).

• **Dover Brick House** (2 Orchard St. in Dover, 749-3838) three bands help ring in a hard and heavy New Year — Bigfoot, Meat-saw and Nick the Barbarian beginning at 9 p.m.

• **Drynk** (20 Old Granite St. in Manchester, 836-5251/391-9905) DJ Jason Spivak locks in a groove at this New Year's Eve party; \$25/person for buffet and a ball drop at midnight. Table tickets also available.

• **Element Lounge** (1055 Elm St. in Manchester, 627-2922) DJ Flex spins starting at 9 p.m. for this no-cover event, with party favors and hors d'oeuvres.

• **Famous Legends Bar & Grill at Strikers East** (4 Essex Drive in Raymond, 895-4474) The Back Burners Band kicks things off at 7 p.m. (\$3 cover), with a champagne toast at midnight and party favors.

• **Fat Belly's** (2 Bow St. in Portsmouth, 610-4227) a DJ plays music and there's a midnight toast at this no-cover event.

• **Fody's Tavern** (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, 577-9015) Comedienne Alana Susko's Comedy on Purpose hosts a New Year's Eve Murder Mystery Dinner followed by a live DJ playing music.

• **Fratello's Manchester** (155 Dow St. in Manchester, 624-2022) Laugh and rock the night away with entertainment from North-shore Comedy and music from DJ Butler. \$75 per person (reservations required) includes passed hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet, pasta station, carving station and a Viennese sweets table. Cash bar, midnight champagne toast, hand-dipped chocolate strawberries and festive party favors.

• **Fury's Publick House** (1 Washington St. in Dover, 617-3633) Two bands, Watkin-sonics and Red Sky Mary, begin at 9 p.m. There's a \$7 cover, champagne toast at midnight and food until the ball drops.

• **Gary's Restaurant & Sports Lounge** (38 Milton Road in Rochester, 335-4279)

NITE

welcomes Wrecked and Warehouse from at 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., with champagne toast, party favors and a free ride home (within the Rochester area).

- **Gauche's Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House** (62 Lowell St. in Manchester, 669-9460) International DJ Moises Fuentes entertains — tickets with the restaurant's renowned carnivore dinner are \$40; party only for \$15.

- **Grand Nightclub** (61 Canal St. in Manchester, 518-5547) DJ Cootz spins the hottest party hits and mashups, with special Guest DJs providing other entertainment. One price (early bird \$24.95) includes buffet and passed hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne toast at midnight. Watch the ball drop from Times Square on the big screen, followed by a continental breakfast.

- **Gravity Tavern** (35 Mont Vernon Road in New Boston, 487-2011) Three comedians perform, including Joey Carroll and Pat Napol, with refreshments and a champagne toast at midnight (\$35 per person).

- **Green Martini** (6 Pleasant St. in Concord, 223-6672) Boogie on Alice packs them in with rock music starting at 9 p.m.

- **Gunstock Ski Area** (719 Cherry Valley Road in Gilford, 293-4341) will have a live band, sleigh rides, jugglers, giveaways, torchlight parade, tubing and a snowshoe hike.

- **Haluwa Lounge** (Nashua Mall in Nashua, 883-6662) Well-loved band Slakas provides the music, with no cover charge, first come first serve starting at 9 p.m. Come early; it fills up fast.

- **Hampshire Hills** (50 Emerson Road in Milford, 673-7123) The James Montgomery Band debuts music from its upcoming CD at a \$39 all-inclusive event with dinner, cocktails and dancing.

- **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St. in Manchester, 644-2467) Enjoy a luxurious four-course "Chophouse Style" dinner from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. for \$175 per couple plus tax & gratuity. Entertainment from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. includes hors d'oeuvres, party favors, a champagne toast at midnight and a performance by Siroteau (\$50 per person).

- **Hen House Sports Bar and Grill** (85 South Main St. in Newton, 382-1705) A \$50 cover provides food and an open bar from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. A DJ spins tunes, and if you need one, the club will provide a free ride home.

- **Henniker Junction** (24 Weare Road in Henniker, 428-8511) There's a party with live music, but the band is not known at press time.

- **Holiday Inn** (172 North Main St. in Concord, 264-6203) The WJYY New Year's Eve Bash includes a buffet dinner, DJ/dancing, and a midnight champagne toast for \$35. Room packages are available.

- **Holiday Inn** (9 Northeastern Blvd. in Nashua, 888-1551) has a party with the Psychedelic Relics in the Bounty Room with dessert buffet and midnight toast for \$30 per person, with room packages available.

- **Holidays Bar and Grill** (346 Hooksett Road in Auburn, 483-0880) Godfather plays music, with food served until 10 p.m.

- **Holy Grail Food & Spirits** (64 Main St. in Epping, 679-9559) There's a special menu, with Robert Charles providing entertainment and leading sing-alongs beginning

at 9 p.m. (no cover).

- **Homestead** (641 Daniel Webster Highway in Merrimack, 429-2022) Singer-songwriter Marc Apostolides performs and a special New Year's Eve menu is served.

- **Intervale Country Club — Divots on the River** (1491 Front St. in Manchester, 623-1146) holds its First Annual Rockin' New Year's Eve with Headshop performing and a midnight breakfast buffet, with a dinner to start the night — it's all \$60 each.

- **J.W. Hill's** (795 Elm St. in Manchester, 645-7422) DJ Jeremy provides music starting at 9 p.m., with party hats and favors, champagne toast, giveaways and prizes (grand prize is a \$500 American Express gift check).

- **Jade Dragon** (515 DW Highway in Merrimack, 424-2280) Ever-popular band Project Mess performs.

- **JD Chaser's** (2B Burnham Road in Hudson, 886-0792) Horizon plays covers and rocks in 2012.

- **Jillian's Billiard Club** (50 Philippe Cote Drive in Manchester, 626-7636) is keeping it simple this year, with champagne toast at midnight.

- **Jokers/Club Intrigue** (1279 South Willow St. in Manchester, 935-9947) Comedians Larry Norton, Chuck Grover and Steve Guilmette entertain (\$25, advance purchase required), with champagne toast and party favors.

- **J's Tavern** (63 Union Square in Milford, 249-9222) The Just Us Band plays a funky style of music fused with blues and classic rock beginning at 10 p.m.

- **Junkyard** (522 Amherst St. in Nashua, 882-6026) Louie Devita-Manolo entertains, doors at 8 p.m., \$1 drinks from 8 to 10 p.m., champagne toast at midnight, party hats, noisemakers, and limited tickets available for \$45.

- **Lodge at Belmont** (Route 106 in Belmont, 877-872-2501) Country stars Eric Grant Band perform. \$20 admission includes buffet, party favors and champagne toast.

- **Londonderry Lions Club** (Route 128 in Londonderry, 434-1162) begins at 7:30 p.m. with Mama Kicks supplying the music for a "Bring Your Own Booze and Food" party, with special guests Napoleon In Rags paying tribute to Bob Dylan. Only 100 tickets available (\$35 each).

- **Loudon Road Restaurant and Pit Road Lounge** (388 Loudon Road in Concord, 226-0533) De facto house band Day Janeiro perform starting at 9 p.m. \$20 cover includes champagne toast.

- **Mad Bob's Saloon** (342 Lincoln St. in Manchester, 669-3049) Up In Lights performs, with a champagne toast at midnight.

- **Makris** (354 Sheep Davis Road in Concord, 225-7665) Fuzzbox rings in the New Year for a no-cover party starting at 8 p.m.

- **Margate Resort** (76 Lake St. in Laconia, 524-5210) Undercover Operative plays the music, with packages available including room, dinner, champagne toast and hot breakfast buffet in the morning.

- **Merrimack Ten Pin Center** (698 DW Highway in Merrimack, 429-0989) offers unlimited bowling at \$25 per person.

- **Milly's Tavern** (500 Commercial St. in Manchester, 625-4444) three bands perform: Among the Living, Pig Pile and Visions Visions. Tickets are \$10 in advance,

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\$15 at the door, a with Bruins tickets giveaway at midnight and party favors.

- **Mint Bistro** (1105 Elm St in Manchester, 625-6468) DJ music caps a special dinner (reservations required) with party favors handed out at midnight.

- **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St. in Manchester, 644-3535) Nimbus 9 performs beginning at 9 p.m. and there's no cover.

- **Oceanfront Pavilion at Hampton Beach State Park** (170 Ocean Blvd. in Hampton, 227-8715) A New Year's Eve Gala (7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., \$75 per person, advance purchase required) includes a menu of light fare featuring an assortment of passed hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast, cash bar, dancing to the music of Vic Paul and fireworks at 8 p.m.

- **Old Amsterdam Bar & Lounge** (8 Temple St. in Nashua, 204-5534) hosts a Black and White Party with live entertainment from 7 to 10 p.m., and then DJ J Styles plays dance music, with champagne toast and no cover.

- **One Mile West** (3 Brook Road in Sunapee, 863-7500) The Moores will start playing at 9:30 p.m. and there will be a ton of prizes, including a grand prize valued at \$1,000. Dinner served from 4 to 10 p.m. with an appetizer buffet at 11 p.m. and a champagne toast when the ball drops.

- **Page** (172 Hanover St. in Portsmouth, 436-0004) Dj Skd and Dj Heaven will be spinning the music on both floors (\$12 at the door, \$10 in advance, with proceeds supporting a donation to Toys for Tots. Doors at 8 p.m. with a complimentary champagne toast, giveaways and prizes all night.

- **Palace Theatre** (80 Hanover St. in Manchester, 668-5588) *America's Got Talent* favorites Recycled Percussion return with an entirely new show of drum-based "junk rock" following their long run at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Due to popular demand, a second Dec. 31 show has been added at 4 p.m.

- **Pasta Loft** (241 Union Square in Milford, 672-2270) Loose Grip plays covers, with dinner specials including double lobster and prime rib; the no-cover show starts at 9 p.m.

- **Pat's Peak Ski Area** (24 Flanders Road in Henniker, 428-3245) There's family fun as New Year's Eve goes P.O.P. — pay one price for skiing, snowboarding, tubing and rentals, and enjoy McMurphy's Band in the Sleigh Room from 6 to 10:30 p.m., with comedians performing during the breaks. Party Favors handed out at 9 p.m. fireworks at 10:30 p.m. One price for all ages, \$53.

- **Peddler's Daughter** (48 Main St. in Nashua, 880-8686) Revels Glen plays music; there's a three-course dinner with choice of bottle of wine, two premium beers or shaker of martinis for \$75 per couple, tax & gratuity not included, beginning at 5 p.m.

- **Penuche's Grill** (96 Hanover St. in Manchester, 626-9830) Lichen plays a New Year's show at that band's favorite bar.

- **Piccola's Upstairs Lounge** (815 Elm St. in Manchester, 296-4070) blues rockers Raising Scarlet provide live entertainment, with a champagne toast at midnight.

- **Portsmouth Gas Light Co.** (64 Market St. in Portsmouth, 431-9122) At the third-floor nightclub, step back in time and experience a true Venetian Masquerade Ball with a sexy twist. Doors open at 9 p.m.,

cocktail attire suggested. \$35 tickets include passed hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast, late night buffet and plenty of party favors.

- **Press Room** (77 Daniel St. in Portsmouth, 431-5186) Rockspring plays rock and Americana for a \$7 cover.

- **Red Door** (107 State St. in Portsmouth, 373-6827) special guest DJ Eli Wilkie spins, with opening music from Jimmy Brisket (\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door) with champagne toast at midnight.

- **Ri Ra Irish Pub** (22 Market Square in Portsmouth, 319-1680) Stomping Melvin rocks the room starting at 10 p.m.

- **Sayde's Restaurant** (136 Cluff Crossing in Salem, 890-1032) There's a DJ and pot luck party, champagne toast at midnight, with designated drivers provided and free tows from AAA.

- **Shaskeen** (909 Elm St. in Manchester, 625-0246) DJ PB Kidd provides music at a \$50 open bar party that includes buffet and champagne toast at midnight. Starts at 8 p.m. and includes two grand prize drawings, one for a trip to Cancun, the other to Lake Tahoe.

- **Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel** (250 Market St. in Portsmouth, 431-2300) provides dinner, dancing and comedy with Live Free or Die Laughing — national headliner Kelly MacFarland leads a night of fun (\$75).

- **Shooters Tavern** (Route 3, DW Highway in Belmont, 528-2444) Resident Soul performs at a party that includes favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

- **Stella Blu** (70 E. Pearl St. in Nashua, 578-5557) the Rampage Trio performs.

- **Steve-N-James Tavern** (187 Rockingham Road in Derry, 434-0600) Acoustic Cocktail plays from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., with drink specials, no cover and a champagne toast at midnight.

- **Stone Church** (5 Granite St. in Newmarket, 292-3546) Truffle performs a 21+ show that starts at 8 p.m. for \$15. A special dinner date night package is available with presale tickets; it includes dinner for two, a bottle of wine, and two tickets to the show.

- **Strange Brew Tavern** (88 Market St. in Manchester, 666-4292) Mr. Nick & Dirty Tricks perform, with an appetizer buffet and champagne toast at midnight (\$10 cover).

- **Strikers East Bowling Center** (4 Essex Drive in Raymond, 895-9501) Rockin' Ronnie Adams and Switchback perform at a family-friendly all-you-can-bowl party (\$20 for adults, \$15 for children 12 and under) with full hot and cold buffet and champagne or cider toast. Bring a non-perishable food item for New Horizons to be automatically entered into a raffle.

- **Tandy's Top Shelf** (1 Eagle Square in Concord, 856-7614) offers an Exclusive package (\$90 each, \$150 per couple) that includes a five-course meal, a personal bottle of bubbly and other goodies. Take 4, a young, energetic cover band that plays "everything from records to iPods," will be performing from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. A VIP package (\$50 each, \$75 per couple) includes two cocktails and a champagne toast, and music-only tickets are also available.

- **The Village Players Theater** (51 Glendon St. in Wolfeboro) travels back in time with The Bel Airs Doo Wop Concert, part of First Night Wolfeboro (\$15).

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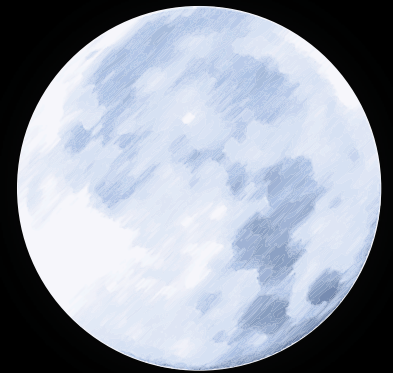
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stown, 497-8230) Dave and the Deep Pockets perform high-energy blues rock at a no-cover show.

• **Wally's Pub** (144 Ashworth Ave. in Hampton, 926-6954) The Old Bastards, eight guys from old garage bands that "got the band back together," perform rock covers.

• **Whippersnappers** (44 Nashua Road #13 in Londonderry, 434-2660) Souled Out Soul Band, led by the restaurant's owner, plays funk, R&B and other favorites.

• **Wild Rover** (21 Kosciuszko St. in Manchester, 669-7722) The Paulies play rock music starting at 9 p.m. with a champagne toast at midnight.

• **Woodstock Inn** (Route 3, Main Street in North Woodstock, 745-3951) Josh Logan

Band rocks the house at this popular mountain brewpub.

• **Workmen's Club** (183 Douglas St. in Manchester, 623-9035) rocks out as Torn Down House performs (\$5 members, \$10/guest); dinner is at 7 p.m., band at 8:30, champagne toast at midnight.

• **The Yard** (1211 S. Mammoth Road in Manchester, 623-3545) North Shore Comedy provides the laughs with Groove Alliance delivering the music at a \$75/person party that includes a buffet from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

• **Z Food and Drink** (860 Elm St. in Manchester, 629-9383) hosts a party that includes LEGO building, prizes, contest, music and a champagne toast.

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A year of local tunes

Taking it to 11 in 2011

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The local music scene was action-packed in 2011.

Names in the news

The Concord-based **Ron Noyes Band** had a breakout year, opening for Southern rockers ZZ Top and .38 Special, bluesman Jonny Lang, the Barenaked Ladies and even country crooner George Jones. But the group was making even more news with its own music. The new track "Shelter," made with all-star production assistance, is rising up the charts at Sirius/XM satellite radio's The Pulse. In 2012 there's talk of a national tour with Blues Traveler, at the suggestion of their front man John Popper, who played on RNB's most recent album.

Singer/songwriter **Amy Petty** was again onstage at Carnegie Hall for the annual American Christmas Carol show. Afterward, actor, media mogul and E Street Band guitarist Steven Van Zandt went out of his way to have his picture taken with Petty (pictured), totally smitten with her vocalizing. Along with the release of her own holiday album, *Sycamore Trees*, she contributed to the two-disc soundtrack of the Tim Janis holiday project, worked on a PBS special and appeared on QVC to sing a couple of songs.

For the second year in a row, guitarist **Arthur James** won the Granite State Blues competition, and with it a chance to compete again in the national finals. He didn't make it out of the early rounds this spring, but called it "the experience of a lifetime." Last month, James opened for Canadian guitar hero Harry Manx at Plymouth's Flying Monkey, and he has a fundraiser set to help with the cost of another trip to Memphis in January, with help from the RBK Project, led by fellow guitar hotshot Ryan Brooks Kelly (Friday, Jan. 20, at Milford VFW).

On a less than bright note, **The Sound Booth** in Nashua started on a hopeful note in the spring, offering local kids hard rock shows in a drug-free environment, but by October the club, housed in the church basement, called it quits. Founder Tyler Crowell's relocation to Massachusetts forced the decision, but the effort ended with the same energy it began, as Self Illusion, Conflicted, Twisted Legacy and Anchorlines played to a packed



Amy Petty and Steven Van Zandt. Courtesy photo.

house. Crowell hoped someone would fill the void, saying in a Facebook post, "There's no such thing as a pipe dream."

In April, Manchester nightclub **Johnny Bad's** shut down, and the Thursday night blues jam briefly became homeless before resuming at The Wild Rover. The next month Slammers in Bedford closed and awaited the wrecking ball. On the other hand, Manch Vegas welcomed three new clubs — **Drynk** opened in a once shuttered club; the **L&M Grand** unveiled a multipurpose facility with food, drinks, dancing and sports like racquetball and squash, and in the fall, **Jokers Sports Bar & Bistro** debuted, offering weekly comedy shows, live music and sports on big-screen televisions.

Really big shows

For 11 years, Concord native **Dan Zanes'** benefit show for the Friendly Kitchen gave the "family-friendly" performer (he won't call what he does children's music) a chance to bring hometown performers on stage to sing with him. He again played for the food bank where his mother once worked in April. A few months later, damage from a fire closed the vital resource, and more fundraisers — this time to rebuild — were held. Zanes himself announced a reunion with his '80s band Del Fuegos, including a few New England shows in early 2012.

Hinder and Saving Abel topped a bill of hard rock talent that included several local bands as live music returned to **Manchester's Armory Ballroom** for the first time since the

NITE

mid-1990s. A second summer show featuring Candlebox was also successful, as promoter New England Concerts expanded its operation — several events at Nashua's Amber Room also proved successful, and by end of year the company's CEO had opened Backstage Bar and Grille in Nashua to continue the trend.

Plenty of shows at Casino Ballroom in Hampton Beach drew big crowds — comedian Louis C.K., '90s rockers Queensryche and a season-ending Pixies reunion that sold out instantly. But the mid-summer appearance by **All Time Low** proved that new bands could still get a toehold despite any industry doldrums. A capacity crowd with a median age in the teens bounced in sweaty ecstasy to a group that in the space of a couple years successfully made a transition from place like House of Blues to big rooms and sheds, with a well-selling album as well.

Christian Wisecarver of **Super Secret Project** self-deprecatingly claims a slow news day caused the success of their comedic love letter to New Hampshire "Granite State of Mind." Since the song hit in 2010, the trio has developed into a formidable live act, and in early October played to a near-sellout crowd with local comic Nick Lavalley at Boynton's Taproom. They debuted a song about Boston sports fanaticism; the timing could have been better, as the Red Sox season melted down to zero a few days later. In December, a Palace Theatre audience enjoyed their sendup of the region's recent electricity woes, "All I Want for Christmas is My Power Black."

Neither **Bob Dylan** nor **Leon Russell** says much on stage; each prefers to let his music do the talking. In August, the pair came to Meadowbrook, nearly 40 years to the day after the historic Concert For Bangladesh. Russell began with an energetic set that drew from his extensive country, R&B, gospel and honky-tonk rock catalogs. Dylan came out with a top-notch band and, as is his wont, played many familiar songs in unfamiliar ways — more than once, it took two verses and chorus to puzzle out a title. All in all, it was a legendary night.

Best local albums

Several local artists turned in some stand-out studio work this year.

Christa Renee Band, *For the People*. From the opening track "Mentirosa," adapted from Santana's "Evil Ways," this band's debut effort is an insistently danceable effort propelled by a strong Latin backbeat with elements of reggae, soul and punk echoes from Lene Lovich and the Clash. Standout track: "Struggle."

Blacklight Ruckus, *Blacklight Ruckus*. A love of rave parties gave this trio its name, and when Blacklight Ruckus finds a groove, there's no denying it — a concoction deep, thick and sweet as honey. If the sound came from a jar, it could be stirred into tea. Their debut perfectly bottles their sound. Standout track: "The Edge."

Tristan Omand, *Tolled Stories*. The beating heart of Manchester, his first full-length album provides but a glimpse into the depths of Omand's talents. But it's a wonderful look indeed; his songs probe the narrow bridge between hope and hopelessness with raw, relentless energy. Standout track: "Broken Hearted Woman."

Foreverinmotion, *Sunrise Deluxe Edition*. Brendon Thomas made two multilayered studio gems filled with ache and awe before moving in a new direction. This is a more stripped down affair featuring banjo, harmonica and other roots elements. The Deluxe edition is a remix of his 2010 release. Standout track: "Red Bird."

Jandee Lee Porter, *Whiskey and Wine*. Perhaps tempered by the singer/songwriter's new motherhood, this was a more reflective follow-up to last year's rocking *No Reason to Lie*. The album cemented Porter's reputation as one of the region's rising stars, a country talent with solid crossover potential. Standout track: "Contradictions."

Personal high points

Every week presented me with a new opportunity to tell a different musician's story, but some subjects were particularly exciting.

The Moody Blues' **Justin Hayward** spoke with the Hippo from an undisclosed location in Europe (as per management) about the impact of his progressive rock band on the history of music, even if the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has yet to acknowledge them. **Jon Anderson** of Yes and Emerson, Lake & Palmer drummer **Carl Palmer** also granted lengthy interviews.

Rosanne Cash spoke with the Hippo in advance of a fall show in Concord; Cash discussed *The List*, a project that found her curating 1,000 essential songs chosen by her father, the late Johnny Cash. **Steve Earle** has many projects — the HBO series *Treme*, a novel, a new album among them. But he took a few minutes to talk about working with producer T-Bone Burnett and performing with wife Allison Moorer, and to observe that though political themes are often in his music, he's not purely a topical songwriter.

James McMurtry doesn't shy away from the national discourse. As he drove down a Texas highway with a bag of barbecue at his side, the singer/songwriter groused about poor leadership in Washington forcing him to take his masterful 2004 protest song out of retirement. The success of "We Can't Make It Here" left him with mixed emotions. He said, "It's good for me but not good for the country" that so many people identified with the song.

For a story in the Hippo's Seacoast edition, **Southside Johnny** talked about his unabated energy level that has him performing well past age 60 with his band the Asbury Jukes. His latest album features "One More Night to Rock," a manifesto of sorts. "When the band's really cracking and the audience is having a great time, I feel like that's where I belong," he said. "It's draining at times, but when it's good, it's the best thing in the world."

Country music's **Luke Bryan** notched plenty of accolades, including a Best New Artist CMA nomination and two ACM awards, but the humble star answered his own phone for an interview that ranged from early days in Nashville to big hits like "Do I" and his Verizon Wireless appearance with Rascal Flatts. "I think the main thing is to just try to put the best song out that you can, and let everything else kind of take care of itself," he said.

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RESERVE TODAY!

Welcome to the puzzle — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

Across

1. Billy Idol ‘If I should stumble, ___ my fall’
6. Unconscious GnR song?
10. U2 ‘Bass ___’
14. Foo Fighters ‘Best ___’ (2,3)
15. Rocker grand slams
16. Guns And Roses ‘Since I Don’t ___ You’
17. ‘Pump Up The Volume’

- one-hitters
18. The Everly Brothers, e.g.
19. ‘Magnet & Steel’ Walter
20. 80s Matthew Wilder smash (5,2,6)
23. ‘Small Craft On A Milk Sea’
Brian Eno w/Jon Hopkins & ___ Abrahams
24. ‘79 Fleetwood Mac hit
25. ‘Hard ___ To Follow’ Brother Cane

28. Bass note of a chord, usually
31. Radiohead is the ‘King’ of them
34. Kiss will meet you in the Ladies’ one
36. ‘Get Ready’ ___ Earth
38. What journalist will do, at times
40. JD Salinger-inspired Guns And Roses song? (7,2,3,3)
43. What unoriginal songwriter did
44. Iconic British Nigerian softrock singer
45. Got had by ‘Runaround Sue’
46. What manager does to deals
48. ‘How ___ has this been going on?’
50. ‘Set The Controls For The Heart Of The ___’ Pink Floyd
51. Applaud
53. How you address rapper Mix-A-Lot
55. Led Zep ‘What Is And What ___’ (6,5,2)
61. Nashville sing/songer Rakes

12/22

G	L	E	N		C	A	S	S		L	O	S	T
L	O	V	I	N		H	U	E	Y		O	N	T
A	D	E	L	E		A	R	M	S		O	T	E
D	I	R	E	S	T	R	A	I	T	S		H	A
					T	O	M			E	A	T	E
					H	I	M	S	A		F	E	M
					L	O	W	E		S	T	O	P
					A	L	A	N		T	H	U	M
					S	E	N	D	S		E	N	D
						N	E	E	D	E		T	H
						R	A	D	A	R		A	C
						C	U	L		T	H	A	N
						B	R	I	T		O	M	I
						G	A	V	E		O	A	T
						B	L	E	D		K	N	E
											M	A	R

63. GnR ‘I Don’t ___ About You’
64. AC/DC ‘I wanna cover you ___’ (2,3)
65. Record company department
66. Robert John Godfrey band
67. What dropped band does
68. How Axl acted, at times
69. What rocker does in gym, pre-tour
70. Joshua James song about birds?

Down

1. What rockers w/dreadlocks don’t need
2. Like distant seating area
3. Bonnie Tyler’s ‘___ Tracks And Broken Hearts’
4. English band that hangs on a reef?
5. Bob Mould band ___ Dü
6. ‘The Seed (2.0)’ writer Chesnutt
7. David Soul ‘Don’t Give Up ___’ (2,2)
8. What soul does to body, to Death Cab For Cutie
9. ‘68 Van Morrison album ‘___ Weeks’
10. Forerunning UK goth band (3,6)
11. What Slash used to do, slang
12. Pumpkins “We must never be apart” song ‘___ Adore’
13. Write
21. ‘How Does It Feel’ guitarist Ian
22. Like U2
25. Steve Winwood’s ‘Diver’ does them

26. Better Than Ezra wears them in ‘Winter’
27. Lisa Lisa ‘Head ___’ (2,3)
29. What Randy Travis will ‘Pick Up’ before he rows
30. What Axl Rose goes to, at times
32. The Who ‘___ The Spider’
33. American Head Charge ‘Just ___ Know’ (2,3)
35. Lilith Fair founder Sarah
37. Ozzfest ‘Evolve’ rockers
39. Sing/songer Michael in Boogie Nights
41. Lionel Richie song that says hi?
42. Napalm Death ‘Passive ___’
47. Billy Bragg sings of a ‘Flying’ one
49. Rick Astley ‘___ Up On Love’
52. Where stars sit in first-class
54. Soprano Fleming
55. “While you ___ chance, take it” (3,1)
56. Gwar ‘Penile ___’
57. English rockers ___ Atomic Dustbin
58. Hangs out with a gun?
59. Siouxsie And The Banshees ‘Pulled To ___’
60. Metallica ‘Nothing ___ Matters’
61. What Slash can do well
62. Northwestern Everclear home state, for short
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Written By: Todd Santos

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NITE

On the scene



Band members of the world, unite and take over

Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if you regularly update your website or

MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

In the spotlight



Boogie in the new year

Spend the last night of 2011 with Boogie On Alice at The Green Martini in Concord, on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. The Concord-based jam/funk band, which counts Dan Lepage, Sean

Roukey, Matthew Ghelli and Travis MacEachern as its members, has been playing together since 2009, though many of the guys have been pals since elementary school.

Kingston

1686 House Tavern:
Mike Belkas

Laconia

Fratello's: Paul Warnick

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Gary Lopez
Whippersnappers:
Hypercane

Manchester

Black Brimmer: Last
Laugh

City Sports Grille: DJ G
Club 313: DJ Bob
Derryfield: The Voice
Fratello's: Kim Riley
Murphy's: Mugsy
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Paranoid
Social Club
Strange Brew: Racky
Thomas

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael
Bourgeois, DJ

Merrimack

The Homestead: Marc
Apostolides

Milford

Clark's: DJ Obdulio
Pasta Loft: Groovy
Afternoon

Nashua

Amber Room: DJ Lou,
DJ Danjah
Amsterdam: DJ
Haluwa: The Slakas
Martha's: DJ Spivak
Peddlers: EBS

Newmarket

Stone Church: Chippy
and the Ya Yas

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo
Sad Cafe: Jessica
Prouty Band

Portsmouth

Gaslight, DJ Koko P

The Page: DJ

Red Door: Matt
Dimond, Nick Snortchez
Press Room: Rhythm
Method
Rudi's: Yvonne Aubert

Salem

Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Chop Shop: The Lesser
Gods
Honey Pot: DJ

Saturday, Dec. 31

Auburn
Holidays: Godfather

Belmont

The Lodge: Eric Grant
Band

Boscawen

Alan's: Vintage ABand

Concord

Green Martini: Boogie
on Alice
Holiday Inn: DJ
Loudon Road: Day
Janeiro
Makris: Fuzz Box
Penuche's: Captain
Chet Lawson's Snake
Oil Revue
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Brick House: Bigfoot,
Meatsaw, Nick the Bar-
barian
Fury's: Watkinsons,
Red Sky Mary
Kelley's Row: Gazpacho
RJ's: DJ

Epping

Holy Grail: Robert
Charles

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Down-
town Dave and the Deep
Pockets

Hampstead

Village Square: River
City Band

Hampton

Wally's: The Old Bas-
tards

Henniker

Pat's Peak: McMur-
phy's Band

Hooksett

Asian Breeze: Groove
Cats

Laconia

Margate: Undercover
Operative

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Steve
Tolley
Whippersnappers:
Souled Out Show Band

Manchester

Black Brimmer: Jim-
my's Down
Boynton's Taproom:
Dueling Pianos
Breezeway: DJ McKay
City Sports Grille:
Soundtrack to Monday
Club 313: DJ Bob
Derryfield: Last Kid
Picked

Drynk: DJ Spivak

Element: DJ Flex
Gauchos: DJ Moises
Fuentes
Grand: DJ Cootz
Hanover Street Chop
House: Siroteau
J.W. Hills: DJ Jeremy
Mad Bob's: Up in
Lights
Milly's: Among the
Living, Pigpile, Visions-
Visions
Mint: DJ
Murphy's: Nimbus 9
Penuche: Lichen
Piccola: Raising Scarlet
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: DJ PB Kidd
Strange Brew: Mr.
Nick & the Dirty Tricks
Wild Rover: The Pau-
lies
The Yard: Groove Alli-
ance

Meredith

Giuseppe's: The Nines,
No Limitz

Merrimack

The Homestead: Marc
Apostolides
Jade Dragon: Project
Mess

Milford

Chapangas: karaoke DJ
Clark's: The Malcolm
Experience
J's Tavern: Just Us
Band
Hampshire Hills:
James Montgomery
Band
Pasta Loft: Loose Grip



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NITE

In the spotlight



Nick Goumas quartet at the Jazz Center

Jazz saxophonist Nick Goumas will take the stage with pianist Steve Hunt, bassist Bruce Gertz and drummer Jack Diefendorf at the New Hampshire Jazz Center (nhjazz.com) at Pitman's Freight Room, 94 New Salem St., Laconia, on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 8 p.m. Goumas, a UMass-Lowell music education graduate, kicked off his jazz career in the 1960s and played with U.S. Army bands for three years. He has shared the stage with Yoron Israel, Rosemary Clooney and Wild Bill Davis. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and the venue is BYOB.

Nashua

Amber Room: DJ
Backstage: Mindset X
Boston Billiard: DJ Alikea
Crowne Plaza: On Line
Fody's: DJ
Haluwa: The Slakas
Junkyard: Louie Devita-Manolo
Martha's: DJ
Off the Wall Lounge: Blues Tonight Band
Old Amsterdam: DJ J Styles
Peddler's: Revel Glen

Newmarket

Stone Church: Truffle

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Sub Navy Roamers
Dolphin Striker: Bob Arens
Fat Belly's: DJ
Gaslight: DJ JW
The Page: DJ Skd, DJ Heaven
Press Room: Rockspring
Red Door: DJ Eli Wilkie
Ri Ra: Stomping Melvin
Rudi's: Dimitri & Danny

Raymond

Famous Legends: The Back Burners Band
Strikers: Ronnie Adams, Switchback

Salem

Jocelyn's: DJ Sayde: DJ

Seabrook

Castaways: DJ
Chop Shop: Drop Zone, Country Mile

Windham

Common Man: Karen

Grenier

Sunday, Jan. 1 Concord

Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor

Dover

Brick House: DJ Erich Kruger
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Wan-tu Blues Band blues jam

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: The Restless Campbells

Manchester

900 Degrees: blues open mike night w/ Tom Ballerini
Shaskeen: sing-along w/ the Spain Brothers

Meredith

Giuseppe's: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo

Milford

Clark's: DJ

Nashua

Fody's: open mike w/ Chad Verbeck

Newmarket

Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: open mike
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Matt Langley and Mike Effenberger

Stratham

Acoustic Outfitters: acoustic open mike w/ Ellen Carlson

Monday, Jan. 2 Candia

Henderson's: electric rock open mike

Concord

Red Blazer: open mike w/Matt Langley

Dover

Castaway's Boathouse: Denis Patrick's Merry

Pranksters' open mike

Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally's Pub: DJ

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: Howard Randall's Blue Monday

Manchester

Milly's: Dom and Reid of Manchuka
Rocko's: Always and Forever

Meredith

Camp: acoustic open mike w/ Linden Mazurka
Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo

Merrimack

The Homestead: Charlie Christos

Milford

J's Tavern: acoustic open mike

CONCERTS

Venues

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, ledlycenter.org

Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Rd., Francetown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St.,

Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436.2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com

• **Recycled Percussion** Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m., Colonial
 • **Recycled Percussion** Fri., Dec. 30, at 8 p.m., Palace
 • **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
 • **Recycled Percussion** Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Palace
 • **Beatejuice** Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Cap Center

• **Liz Longley** Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
 • **Little Feat** Sun., Jan. 8, at 8:30 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Debbie Davies Band** Tues., Jan. 10, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Laurence Juber** Thurs., Jan. 12, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Gandalf Murphy & the Slambovian Circus of Dreams**

Fri., Jan. 13, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Peter Yarrow** Sat., Jan. 14, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Jan. 14, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
 • **Moment in Time: A Tribute to Paul Whiteman** Sun., Jan. 15, at 4 p.m., Cap Center
 • **Poco** Sun., Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Marc Cohn** Thurs., Jan. 19, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

NITE

Tuesday, Jan. 3 Concord

Barley House: Irish sessions
Tandy's: open mike w/ Calvin McFarlin

Dover

Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Scot and the Usual Suspects

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Baked Naked, Liquid Courage

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester

Milly's: Manchuka
Murphy's: open mike w/Josh Logan, Nate Comp and Paul Costley
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Aldous Collins
Strange Brew: Strange Brew All Stars

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack

The Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford

J's Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks

Nashua

Fody's: DJ Mark Allen

Newmarket

Stone Church: bluegrass jam w/ Dave Talmage

Portsmouth

Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland, hoot open mike w/ Chad Verbeck

Seabrook

Honey Pot: open mike

Wednesday, Jan. 4 Antrim

Redneck's: open mike w/ the Boogiemens

Auburn

Holiday's: DJ Captain Chris

In the spotlight



Local bands at Ground Zero
Promise Me Empires will join local bands The Sons of Katie Elder, A City Below Ashes, A Shallow Glamour, City Falls Silent and Arethusa at Ground Zero, 48 Allenstown Road, Allenstown, on Friday, Dec. 30, at 8 p.m. The metalcore/hardcore band led by vocalist Griffin Curtis (drummer Matt Parker and guitarists Derek Younginger and Matt Poulin round out the rest of the Bow-based band) was formed in 2010. Tickets cost \$10 in advance (\$12 at the door).

In the spotlight



Haluwa hoo-ra

Kick off 2012 in the Gate City with the Slakas at Haluwa Restaurant & Lounge, 100 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, on Friday, Dec. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 31 (the band will also return to the venue for shows on Friday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Jan. 7).

In the spotlight



A cappella is cool

Celebrate the new year with three rock-in' *a cappella* shows featuring Tuckermans at 9 at Wolfeboro First Night, at Brewster Academy's Anderson Hall, 205 S. Main St., Wolfeboro, on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 8, 9 and 10 p.m. Tuckermans at 9 recently added "Please Mr. Postman" and "Cheeseburger in Paradise" to its song arsenal, which includes such hits as "Beat It" by Michael Jackson and "Africa" by Toto. The group has been performing at the town's First Night celebration since 2008. The show is free with admission with a First Night button. Buttons cost \$15 at the Wolfeboro Chamber of Commerce (more button-selling shops can be found at firstnight.wolfeboro.net).

Boscawen

Alan's: open mike

Concord

Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Fury's: open mike w/ Paul Chase
Three Chimney's Inn: open mike

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: DJ Kelly Elliott
Wally's Pub: DJ

Kingston

The Carriage Towne: Mike Belkas

Manchester

Penuche's: open mike w/ Friday After Five

Merrimack

Homestead: Kim Riley

Milford

Clark's: open mike
J's Tavern: Lisa from Mama Kicks
Pasta Loft: Ryan Bossie

Nashua

603 Lounge: open mike w/ Kevin Horan
Off the Wall Lounge: open mike
Peddlers Daughter: Revels Glen
Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug
Studio 99: blues jam

Peterborough

Harlow's Pub: open mike

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evareddy
Rudi's: Dimitri

Salem

Murray's: acoustic open mike

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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 29 Nashua

Fody's: Alana Susko

Friday, Dec. 30 Epping

Holy Grail: Dave Andrews and Jimmy "PJ" Walsh

Saturday, Dec. 31 Derry

Brookstone: comedy

Thursday, Dec. 29 Nashua

from Get Down Tongith Entertainment and North Shore Comedy

Friday, Dec. 30 Manchester

Headliners: Rob Steen, Robbie Printz and Jody Sloane
The Yard: North Shore Comedy

Saturday, Dec. 31 New Boston

Gravity Tavern: Joey

Thursday, Dec. 29 Manchester

Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, Jan. 4 Manchester

Shaskeen: open mike

Monday, Jan. 2 Concord

Penuche's: live standup

Thursday, Dec. 29 Manchester

Carroll, Pat Napol

Friday, Dec. 30 Portsmouth

Sheraton: Kelly MacFarland, Kyle Crawford, Mike Koutrobis and Steve Scarfo

Monday, Jan. 2 Concord

Penuche's: live standup

Thursday, Dec. 29 Manchester

Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, Jan. 4 Manchester

Shaskeen: open mike

Monday, Jan. 2 Concord

Penuche's: live standup

- Across**

1 Taste tea

4 Prefix with scope

8 Stitch together

13 Razz from the audience

14 “Come away with me on ____” (Norah Jones line)

15 “Get ____ on!”

16 Mine, in Paris

17 Hits the road with the band
- 19 The underworld chase for author Deighton?

21 Injured baseball players go on them: abbr.

22 Response of agreement

23 “Crouching Tiger” director Ang

24 52, to Caesar

25 Ending for rubber

28 Numbers, pre-manipulation

31 Start of a “Flintstones” shout

33 Physicist Schrodinger of theoretical cat
- 46 Different spelling, in crosswords: abbr.

47 Part of a school yr.

49 Kindle buy

51 Not feeling so hot

52 Football Hall-of-Famer Ronnie, playing an extra in “Lord of the Rings”?

55 Nerve-wracking event

57 Suit to ____

58 Crux

59 Fix the soundtrack

60 Former Steelers coach Chuck

61 Munster or Vedder

62 Long swimmers

63 Boxing wins
- 13 Derisive (or James Brown-ish) laughs

18 ____ -Day vitamins

20 Popular

26 Flow counterpart

27 Cleanup hitter’s stat

29 “Yeah, I know that person...”

30 Failed to come up with anything

32 Reply: abbr.

34 Competed with for superiority

35 More information than is desired

36 Long Island Iced Tea ingredient

37 ____ pinch

38 Dish of fish cooked in citrus juice

41 Lat. and Lith., once

42 That’s a laugh

44 Overly, emphatically

45 Monopoly buildings

48 HLN host Robin

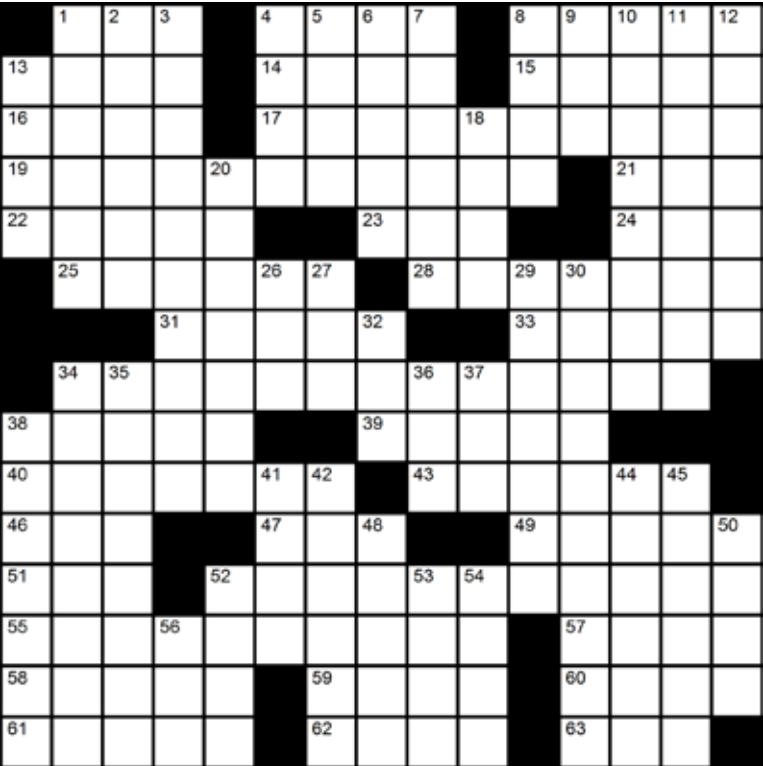
50 Music company known for compilations advertised on TV

52 Head of a French society

53 “Austin Powers” surname

54 They wear jerseys in Jersey

56 ____ Lankan



34 Things you know are going to be in former Virginia governor Chuck’s recycling?

38 Like some unions or wars

39 Strength

40 Most smooth

43 “Broadway Joe”

12/22



Down

- 1 Jacob’s son, in the Bible
- 2 Tristan’s partner
- 3 Active hallucinogen in funny mushrooms
- 4 Part of a magazine
- 5 Black, poetically
- 6 Oscar winner Mercedes for “The Fisher King”

- 7 Manufacturer
- 8 “To Die For” director Gus Van ____
- 9 Pro at the scene of the accident
- 10 Santa Monica cemetery home to dozens of dead celebrities
- 11 Inflammation of that dangly thing in the back of your throat
- 12 Fluffy housecat

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All quotes are from *The Lord of the Rings*, by J. R. R. Tolkien, born Jan. 3, 1892.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) When Mr. Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventy-first birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton. Plan a party for a grand occasion.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) An odd-looking wagon laden with odd-looking packages rolled into Hobbiton one evening and toiled up the Hill to Bag End. Odd-looking things may turn out to contain just what you wanted.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) After the feast (more or less) came the Speech. Most of the company were, however, now in a tolerant mood, at that delightful stage which they called “filling up the corners.” They were sipping their favourite drinks, and nibbling at their favourite dainties, and their fears were forgotten. They were prepared to listen to anything, and to cheer at every full stop. If you need agreement, feed everyone first.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) ‘There is only one way: to find the Cracks of Doom in the depths of Orodruin, the Fire-mountain, and cast the Ring in there, if you really wish to destroy it, to put it beyond the grasp of the Enemy for ever.’ Well, you know what you

need to do.
Taurus (April 20 – May 20) ‘That settles it!’ said Frodo. ‘Short cuts make delays, but inns make longer ones. At all costs we must keep you away from the Golden Perch. We want to get to Bucklebury before dark. What do you say, Sam?’ ‘Don’t dilly-dally.’
Gemini (May 21 – June 20) ‘It is no good our starting to go in zig-zags,’ said Frodo. ‘That won’t mend matters. Let us keep on as we are going! I am not sure that I want to come out into the open yet.’ Zig-zags won’t fix all your problems.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) Sam was the only member of the party who had not been over the river before. He had a strange feeling as the slow gurgling stream slipped by: his old life lay behind in the mists, dark adventure lay in front. Woo-hoooo!

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) ‘It all depends on what you want,’ put in Merry. ‘You can trust us to stick to you through thick and thin—to the bitter end. And you can trust us to keep any secret of yours—closer than you keep it yourself. But you cannot trust us to let you face trouble alone, and go off without a word. We are your friends, Frodo....’ You can be a friend.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) ‘Well, well!’ he said. ‘These trees do shift. There is the Bonfire Glade in front of us (or I hope so), but the path to it

seems to have moved away!’ The trees may shift and the path may move, so try to stay alert.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) After an hour or two they had lost all clear sense of direction, though they knew well enough that they had long ceased to go northward at all. They were being headed off, and were simply following

a course chosen for them—eastwards and southwards, into the heart of the Forest and not out of it. You may just have to go with the flow. But nothing’s stopping you from making the best of it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) As they listened, they began to understand the lives of the Forest, apart from them-

SIGNS OF LIFE

selves, indeed to feel themselves as the strangers where all other things were at home. If you feel like a stranger, sit down and listen.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) The talk did not die down in nine or even ninety-nine days. There’s going to be a lot of talk. You might as well join the discussion.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

					5			
	6						4	
8		3	1	2		9		7
7						2		
		8		9		4		
		6						1
2		4		3	7	5		8
	5						7	
			6					

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/29

SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

12/22

8	2	4	1	6	5	3	7	9
3	7	5	8	2	9	1	6	4
6	9	1	4	3	7	8	2	5
7	5	8	6	9	3	4	1	2
2	4	9	7	1	8	6	5	3
1	3	6	5	4	2	7	9	8
4	1	2	3	5	6	9	8	7
5	8	3	9	7	1	2	4	6
9	6	7	2	8	4	5	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/22

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When Tattoos Aren't Nearly Enough

In some primitive cultures, beauty and status are displayed via large holes in the earlobe from which to hang heavy ornaments or to insert jewels or tokens, and BBC News reported in November that an "increasing" number of counterculture Westerners are getting their lobes opened far beyond routine piercing, usually by gradually stretching but sometimes with a hole-punch tool for immediate results. The hard core are "gauge kings (or queens)," showing a "commitment" to the lifestyle by making holes up to 10 mm (three-eighths inch) wide. (Cosmetic surgeons told BBC News in November that they're already preparing procedures for the inevitable wave of regretted decisions.)

Recurring Weirdness

NOTE: So much "weird" news just involves different people caught in the middle of the same old weirdness. For this week and next, check out recent Recurring Themes (plus important Updates of previous stories):

- Larry Walters made history in 1982 with perhaps the most famous balloon ride of all time — in an ordinary lawn chair, lifted by 45 helium-filled weather balloons — soaring to over 16,000 feet in Southern California before descending by shooting the balloons one by one. In 2008, gas station manager Kent Couch of Bend, Ore., made a similar lawn-chair flight and had scheduled another, for November 2011, to float over now-allegedly peaceful Baghdad, to raise money for Iraqi orphans. (Couch subsequently postponed his flight until March 2012 to give the charities more time to organize.)

- Corruption in some Latin American prisons has allowed powerful criminals to buy extraordinary privileges behind bars. News of the Weird's report on Venezuela's San Antonio prison in July described the imperial reign of one drug lord-inmate, who presided over a personal army, a local-community drug market and private parties (and with his own DirecTV account). In a surprise raid in November on a prison in Acapulco, Mexico, the usual drugs and weapons turned up, but also 100 fighting roosters for daily gambling, along with a prisoner's two pet peacocks.

- The lives of many choking victims have been saved by the Heimlich Maneuver — even one received inadvertently, such as the one a Leesburg, Fla., motorist gave himself in 2001, after gagging on a hamburger, then losing control and smashing into a utility pole. As he was thrust against the steering wheel, the burger dislodged. In November 2011, as the mother of 8-year-old Laci Davis drove her to a Cincinnati hospital after a locket stuck in her throat and caused her to double over in pain, Mom hit a pothole, which jarred Laci and dislodged the locket loose into her stomach (later to come out naturally).

- Sometimes professionals who overbill for their hours go too far, claiming obviously impossible schedules, such as lawyers News of the Weird reported on in 1992 and 1994 (one, a Raleigh, N.C., lawyer, submitted one client bills averaging nearly 1,200 hours a month — even though a month only has 744 hours). New York City officials said in October 2011, however, that it's quite possible

that city prison psychiatrist Dr. Quazi Rahman actually did work 141 hours one week, including 96 straight (because of a shortage of staff and because he could properly nap during his shifts). They ordered him to return only a tiny amount of his \$500,000 in overtime payments for the last year.

- Ten years ago, the fashionable bulletproof clothing industry was in its infancy, with Miss Israel creating a stir at the 2001 Miss Universe pageant with a bulletproof evening gown. Since then, technology and design improvements (along with more rich people!) have enabled leading stylist Miguel Caballero of Colombia to add to his fashion line. The New Yorker reported in September 2011 that Caballero had made a bulletproof dinner jacket for Sean Combs and kimono for Steven Seagal, and that Caballero clothes are available in strengths of bullet-stopping, from "9 mm" to "Uzi."

- Anti-government survivalists engaged in high-profile standoffs have made News of the Weird — most recently the story of Ed Brown and his wife and supporters, resisting a federal tax bill, holed up for nine months in the New Hampshire woods near Plainfield in 2007. (The Browns were arrested by a U.S. marshal who tricked his way inside.) The longest-running standoff now is probably that of John Joe Gray, 63, and his extended family in a 47-acre, well-fortified compound in Trinidad, Texas, southeast of Dallas. They have lived ascetic settlers' lives since Gray jumped bail in 2000 on a traffic charge. Gray has said he feels free on his land and warned authorities "better bring plenty of body bags" if they try to re-arrest him.

Updates

- In January 2009, the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services removed three kids from the home of Heath and Deborah Campbell in Holland Township, apparently after becoming alarmed that the Campbells might be white supremacists.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Though a court later concluded that the kids had been "abused," the Campbells told the New York Daily News in October 2011 that the state acted only based on the names the parents had given the kids — Adolf Hitler Campbell, who was then 3, and his then-1-year-old sisters, Honszlynn Hinler Jeannie Campbell and JoyceLynn Aryan Nation Campbell. The Campbells have consistently denied that they are neo-Nazis.

- It is almost No Longer Weird that Western chefs attempt to get as exotic as they can serving plants, insects and obscure parts of animals in their dishes that are usually only experienced by cultures far removed from America. Jennifer McLagan's recent book on how to cook animals' "odd" parts describes various recipes for cooking hearts, heads, tongues and ears, and guesses that the next big thing in Western eating will be testicles. "(S)teaks and chops are like bulletproof to cook," she said. "Any idiot can cook a steak, right?"

- Thomas Beatie was big news in March 2008 when he and his wife, Nancy, decided to start a family, except that Thomas, not Nancy, took on the child-bearing responsibilities. (Thomas, born a female, had his breasts removed but retained his reproductive organs.) Thomas got pregnant, appeared on "Oprah," and subsequently had three children (who mugged delightfully for the cameras on the syndicated TV show "The Doctors" in October 2011). He also revealed on the show that it might be time to get his tubes tied, as each pregnancy requires him, irritatingly, to abandon his male hormone regimen.

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at <http://NewsOfTheWeird.blogspot.com> and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: WeirdNews@earthlink.net, www.NewsOfTheWeird.com, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679. Copyright 2011 Chuck Shepherd. Distributed by Universal UClick.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2011 AN ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE AND UTTERLY SUBJECTIVE YEAR IN REVIEW (PART THE SECOND) (YES, IT IS VERY WORDY)	MOST OF THE SUMMER: OBAMA REPEATEDLY TRIES TO STRIKE A "GRAND BARGAIN" WITH REPUBLICANS. PLEASE, MAY I OFFER FURTHER CONCESSIONS? 	AUG. 12: ALLEGEDLY SERIOUS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HERMAN CAIN TELLS CROWD-- 	SEPT. 12: RON PAUL SAYS UNINSURED "TAKE (THEIR) OWN RISKS"; G.O.P. CROWD CHEERS AT THOUGHT OF HYPOTHETICAL PERSON DYING DUE TO LACK OF INSURANCE.
SEPT. 20: "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" REPEALED; REPUBLIC FAILS TO COLLAPSE. SEPT. 22: DEMONSTRATING THEIR UNCONDITIONAL RESPECT AND GRATITUDE FOR MILITARY SERVICE, G.O.P. CROWD BOOS SOLDIER FOR BEING GAY.	SEPT. 24: OCCUPY WALL STREET GAINS TRACTION WHEN VIDEO OF COP MACING PEACEFUL PROTESTERS GOES VIRAL. NICE WORK, DUMBASS. 	ALSO: THANKS TO THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT, PUNDITS BEGIN TO REALIZE THAT ORDINARY AMERICANS DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT THE DEFICIT. APPARENTLY THEY WANT "JOBS." 	SEPT. 30: U.S. GOVT ASSASSINATES U.S. CITIZEN ACCUSED OF TERRORISM. I GOTCHER DUE PROCESS RIGHT HERE!
OCTOBER 29: FREAK SNOWSTORM ALONG EAST COAST MEANS...OH, YOU KNOW, YARGLE BARGLE BLARGH AL GORE! 	NOV. 1: HOUSE VOTES TO REAFFIRM "IN GOD WE TRUST" AS NATIONAL MOTTO. JUST IN CASE ANYONE THOUGHT WE HAD STARTED WORSHIPPING CTHULHU! 	NOV. 9: ALLEGEDLY SERIOUS CANDIDATE HERMAN CAIN DECLARES: "FOR EVERY ONE PERSON THAT COMES FORWARD WITH A FALSE ACCUSATION, THERE ARE PROBABLY THOUSANDS WHO WILL SAY NONE OF THAT SORT OF ACTIVITY EVER CAME FROM HERMAN CAIN!" 	NOV. 21: "SUPER-COMMITTEE" FAILS TO ACHIEVE MAGICAL BIPARTISAN DEFICIT-REDUCING COMPROMISE. NO ONE COULD HAVE FORESEEN THIS!
NOV. 30: MICHELE BACHMANN SAYS GAYS DO HAVE THE RIGHT TO MARRY. "THEY CAN MARRY A MAN IF THEY'RE A WOMAN, OR THEY CAN MARRY A WOMAN IF THEY'RE A MAN!" SERIOUSLY, SHE SAID THAT.	DEC. 15: DEFENSE BILL CONFIRMS INDEFINITE MILITARY DETENTION OF U.S. CITIZENS ON U.S. SOIL. BUT THE INNOCENT HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! 	MONTH OF DECEMBER: INCREASINGLY DESPERATE G.O.P. CONTEMPLATES PRESIDENTIAL VIABILITY OF DISGRACED FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER WITH LONG HISTORY OF ADULTERY. ON THE PLUS SIDE, HE'S NOT MITT ROMNEY! 	ALL OF 2011: MORE LUNACY THAN WE COULD FIT IN AN ENTIRE YEAR'S WORTH OF CARTOONS--

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